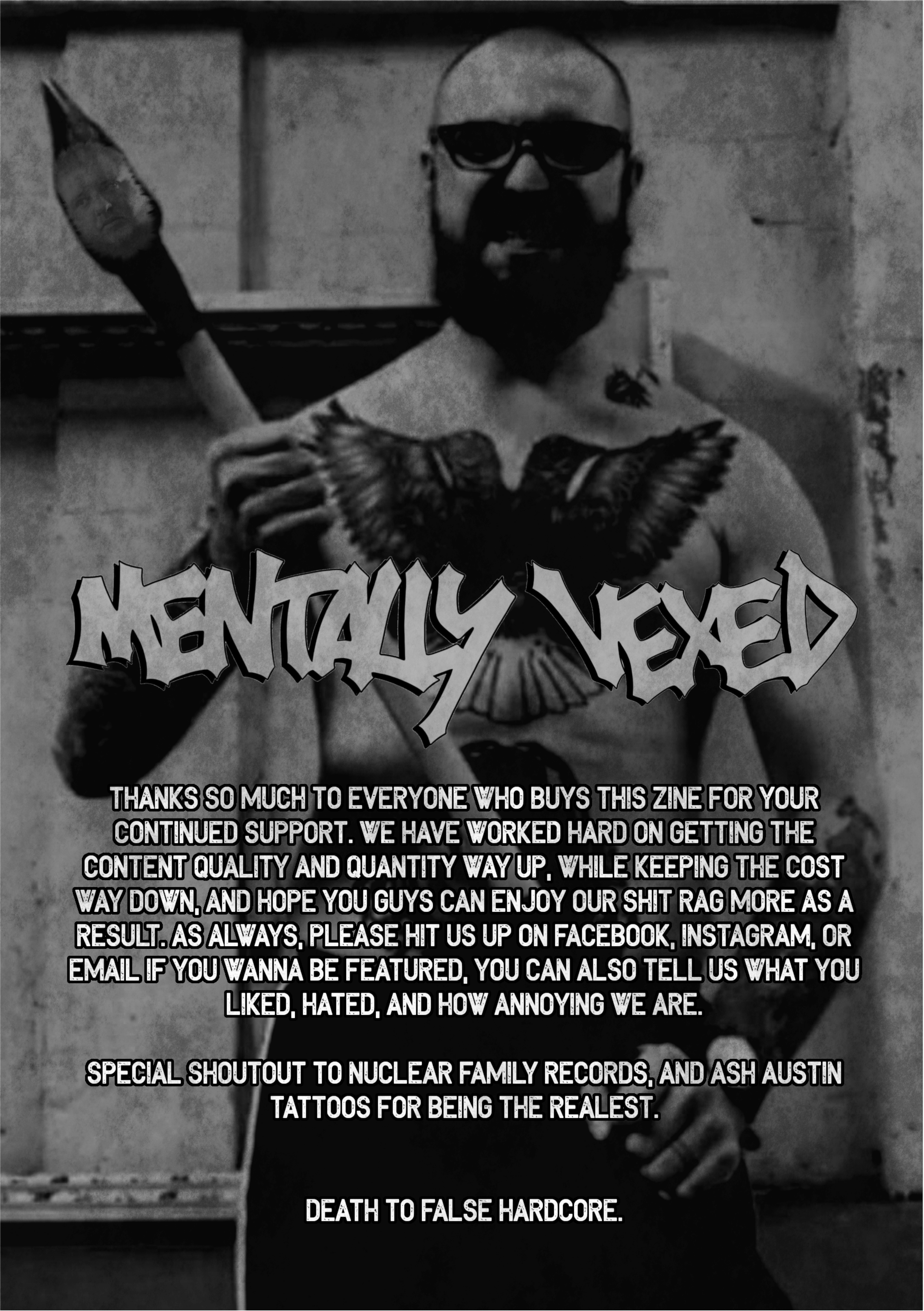
MENTALLY
VEXED

ISSUE 3
OCT 2020



MENTALLY VEXED

THANKS SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO BUYS THIS ZINE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. WE HAVE WORKED HARD ON GETTING THE CONTENT QUALITY AND QUANTITY WAY UP, WHILE KEEPING THE COST WAY DOWN, AND HOPE YOU GUYS CAN ENJOY OUR SHIT RAG MORE AS A RESULT. AS ALWAYS, PLEASE HIT US UP ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, OR EMAIL IF YOU WANNA BE FEATURED, YOU CAN ALSO TELL US WHAT YOU LIKED, HATED, AND HOW ANNOYING WE ARE.

SPECIAL SHOUTOUT TO NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS, AND ASH AUSTIN TATTOOS FOR BEING THE REALEST.

DEATH TO FALSE HARDCORE.

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Chain of Command
NUCLEAR FAMILY × HARNESS RECORDS
MENTALLY VEXED
SUPPRESS
DEATH TO "FALSE" HARDCORE
DEATH CLOCK RECORDS
LOVE
NFR
KOLD WAR
ACTS
@ASHAUSTINTATTOO

INFRACTION

FORMED IN 2019 BY MEMBERS OF VARIOUS LONDON BASED BANDS, INFRACTION HAVE BEEN MAKING WAVES WITH THEIR FIRST TWO EP'S, NO EXCUSES FOR FAILURE & THE BLACK ROOM. THIS IS MOSH HEAVY MUSIC FOR PEOPLE WHO ENJOY A SERVING OF METAL RIFFS WITH THEIR HARDCORE.

YO! HOPE YOU'RE ALL GOOD! INTRODUCTIONS FIRST, SO WHO DOES WHAT IN THE BAND? HOW LONG HAS INFRACTION BEEN AROUND? HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN IN OTHER BANDS BEFORE?

JOHN: YES BRUV, ALL GOOD HERE. SO, WE'VE GOT ADAM AND HANNAH ON GUITARS, CARY ON BASS, TOM ON DRUMS AND ME ON VOCALS. INFRACTION STARTED AS AN IDEA BETWEEN ADAM AND MYSELF WHILST WE WERE ON DOWNTIME WITH OUR PREVIOUS BAND, PROVEN, AROUND EARLY 2018. BUT AS A FULLY FUNCTIONING BAND IT WAS PROBABLY APRIL 2019 WE FORMED. AS FOR PREVIOUS/OTHER CURRENT BANDS, TOM WAS IN AS IT STANDS AND PROTECT YA NECK, CARY WAS ALSO IN PROTECT YA NECK AND CURRENTLY IN IDLE HANDS TOO, HANNAH DID A BRIEF STINT HELPING OUT DESOLATED ON BASS, ADAM WAS IN JYNX, HELLBENT DIEHARD AND PROVEN AND I'VE BEEN IN NO SURVIVORS, WARCHRIST AND PROVEN.

THE BLACK ROOM IS AROUND A MONTH OLD (AT THE TIME OF THE INTERVIEW). I'VE SEEN LOADS OF PEOPLE POSTING AND TALKING ABOUT IT, BUT HOW DO YOU FEEL IT'S BEEN RECEIVED?

CARY: I THINK IT'S BEEN RECEIVED PRETTY WELL CONSIDERING THE HARD TIMES WE ARE IN. I PERSONALLY COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR MORE. WE'VE HAD GREAT SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS AND PEOPLE LISTENING WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PLAY TO YET. HOWEVER, THAT IS COMING AND I CAN'T WAIT. IT WAS A BIG DECISION TO RELEASE DURING COVID-19 HOWEVER AS A BAND WE ARE RARING TO GO AND CONSTANTLY WORKING ON NEW MATERIAL SO THERE NEVER FEELS LIKE A 'BAD' TIME TO DO IT. WE ARE STILL WORKING HARD AND IMPROVING FOR IT AND ARE EAGER TO GET MUSIC OUT TO PEOPLE TO TRY AND GIVE US AND OTHERS SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

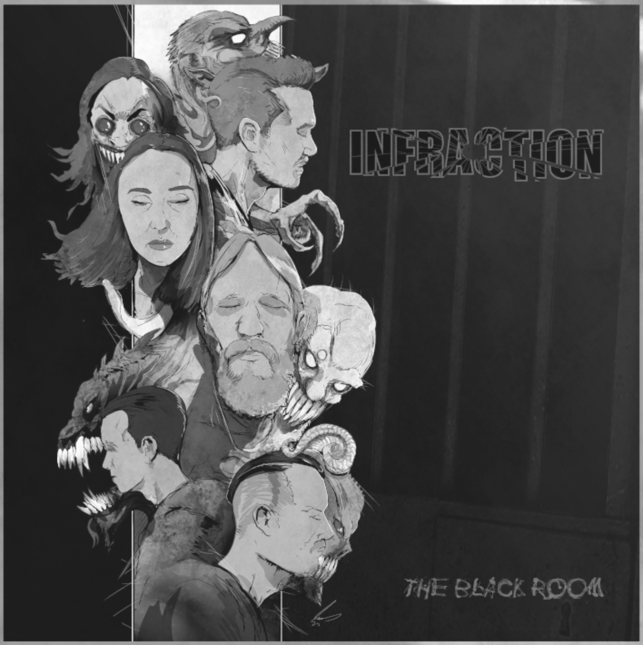
TOM: I THINK THAT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS RECEIVED WELL- SEEING THE AMOUNT IT'S BEEN SHARED ABOUT NOT ONLY BY FRIENDS AND OTHER BANDS WE KNOW ETC BUT SHARED IN THE US AND EUROPE HAS BEEN MIND-BLOWING TO ME PERSONALLY, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE RECORDED AND RELEASED THE EP IN AND PARTIALLY I GUESS DUE TO GENERALLY BEING SELF-DEPRECATING AND PESSIMISTIC AS A PERSON ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO CREATING THINGS.

GETTING MESSAGES ABOUT THE RECORD FROM MATES, MEMBERS OF BANDS WHO I RATE HIGHLY, SEEING IT SHARED ONLINE BY COMPLETE STRANGERS IS SUPER HUMBLING. I PLAY AND RELEASE MUSIC BECAUSE I LOVE IT BUT GETTING THAT PRAISE IS SOMETIMES HARD TO BELIEVE.

I DEFINITELY THINK THAT WE SUFFERED BEING A NEW BAND IN THE SCENE, HAVING ONLY PLAYED TWO SHOWS BEFORE COVID TANKED THE SCENE AND IMPACTED THE RELEASE AS WE HAD SEVERAL HUGE SHOWS GET CANCELLED THAT WOULD HAVE HELPED GET OUR NAME OUT MORE. BUT AS CARY SAID, WE'RE A NEW BAND, RARING TO GO AND KEEP PUSHING OURSELVES TO RELEASE BETTER AND BETTER MUSIC THAT WE ARE CONTINUALLY PROUD OF.

WHEN I HEARD THE FINAL MIXES OF TBR I WAS BLOWN AWAY WITH WHAT ADAM HAD MANAGED TO PULL OUT THE BAG.

I CANNOT WAIT TO GET BACK IN THE PRACTICE STUDIO AND START PLAYING THESE TUNES SO WHEN IT'S TIME TO PLAY SHOWS WE CAN GIVE THE BEST PERFORMANCE WE CAN AS A BAND.



YOU MUST HAVE WRITTEN AND RECORDED DURING LOCKDOWN, HOW DID YOU FIND THAT? WAS THERE ZOOM WRITING SESSIONS? DID YOU RECORD AT HOME OR DID YOU GET TO A STUDIO?

HANNAH: WE DID! WE'D ACTUALLY STARTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR AS ADAM HAD A SONG HE WANTED TO USE - BUT WHEN LOCKDOWN HAPPENED WE DECIDED TO PUSH THAT BACK TO THE NEXT EP WE DO AND HAVE 4 FRESH SONGS FOR THE BLACK ROOM.

SO YEAH ALL OUR SESSIONS WERE DONE OVER ZOOM. ON THE MOST PART IT WAS PRETTY EASY, EVERYONE GOT WHAT PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO EXPLAIN IF SOMEONE WANTED TO MAKE CHANGES - IT'S ALWAYS FUN THOUGH WHEN THERE'S SIGNAL OR AUDIO ISSUES!

PERSONALLY, I FOUND THE WRITING A LITTLE HARD AT TIMES. THIS IS THE FIRST "PROPER" BAND I'VE BEEN IN, SO THIS WAS A NEW PROCESS FOR ME - NOT THE BEST THING TO DO WHEN THERE'S A PANDEMIC AND LOCKDOWN GOING ON! I'D PREFER TO BE IN A ROOM WITH EVERYONE.

WE RECORDED AT HOME. ADAM HAS A FULL HOME STUDIO SETUP SO HE DID THE MAJORITY OF RECORDING, MIXING AND MASTERING ETC.

AT THE BEGINNING OF LOCKDOWN JOHN AND I BOUGHT HOME RECORDING EQUIPMENT; SO JOHN WAS ABLE TO RECORD ALL HIS VOCALS HIMSELF AT HOME.

CARY: AS HANNAH SAID WE MANAGED TO WRITE A LOT OVER LOCKDOWN. USING ZOOM WAS VERY NEW TO ME ANYWAY BUT ONCE WE GOT STARTED IT WAS OBVIOUS WE COULD MAKE IT WORK AND WE DID! FOR ME IT WAS A BIG CHANGE. EVEN THOUGH I'M THE YOUNGEST IN THE BAND I'VE BEEN PLAYING IN BANDS FOR A LONG TIME. I'M VERY MUCH USED TO BEING IN A ROOM TOGETHER AND BOUNCING IDEAS OFF ONE ANOTHER AND MAKING MUSIC. IF I'M HONEST MOST OF THE RIFFS SEEM TO GET FOUND WHEN WE FIRST GET SET UP AND START MESSING AROUND WHILE WE WAIT FOR WHOEVER'S LATE OR LAST TO SET UP. THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE PARTS ABOUT A BAND PRACTICE BUT OF COURSE OVER ZOOM IT WAS A BIT DIFFERENT. WE STILL MANAGED TO PLAY AROUND AND HAVE FUN WHICH HELPED A LOT. IT'S JUST THIS TIME WE HAD TO STOP AND LISTEN TO ONE PERSON AT A TIME DUE TO SOUND DELAY AND THE FACT YOU HAD 5 VOICES COMING OUT OF ONE SPEAKER. I WANT TO GIVE CREDIT TO ALL MY BAND MATES WHO ARE MY FAMILY AS THEY'VE SHOWN ME HOW PRODUCTIVE WE ARE AND HOW WELL WE WORK TOGETHER. AS HANNAH SAID PEOPLE HAVE BOUGHT EQUIPMENT TO HELP OUT, I PERSONALLY WENT AND BOUGHT A HEAD AND CAB. WHICH WAS LONG OVERDUE CONSIDERING I'VE BEEN IN BANDS FOR AROUND 8 YEARS AT THIS POINT. I'M VERY EXCITED TO GET OUT AND PLAY THESE SHOWS AND I HOPE DURING THIS TIME WE CAN GET AS MANY PEOPLE LISTENING TO IT AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN GET OUT AND PLAY IT LIVE TO AS MANY FRIENDS AS POSSIBLE.

HOW HAVE SHOWS GONE SO FAR? DID YOU MANAGE TO GET MANY IN BEFORE THEY ALL SHUT DOWN?

TOM: THE FIRST TWO SHOWS THAT WE HAVE PLAYED WENT REALLY WELL. I WAS MAJORLY GASSED TO BE BACK PLAYING LIVE AGAIN AFTER THE LAST SHOW I PLAYED WITH PYN. I 100% COULD HAVE PLAYED WITH MORE FLAIR AT THE FIRST SHOW BUT MY NERVES 100% GOT THE BETTER OF ME SO I PLAYED IT SAFE. RE-WATCHING THE FOOTAGE (SHOUT OUT TO SEAN PITCAM FOR FILMING THE SET, WHICH IS UP ON DAI TAN'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL) MAKES ME CRINGE!

I FELT FAR MORE COMFORTABLE AT THE SECOND SHOW THOUGH AND I'M GASSED TO BE PLAYING MORE ONCE LIVE SHOWS ARE BACK UP AND RUNNING.

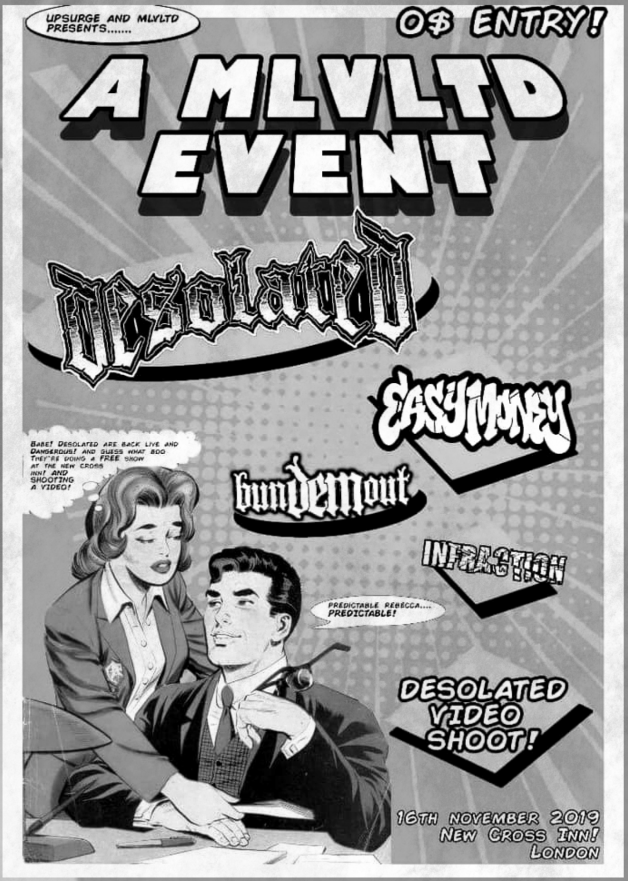
I GOT TO A COUPLE SHOWS BEFORE LOCKDOWN HAPPENED BUT MY TEACHING JOB GETS IN THE WAY OF A LOT OF SHOWS- ESPECIALLY MID-WEEK BECAUSE OF STUPID WORK HOURS. 100% MAKING THEM MORE OF A PRIORITY WHEN THEY'RE BACK UP AND RUNNING, TEACHING IN LOCKDOWN HAS MADE ME APPRECIATE THAT A WORK/LIFE BALANCE IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT

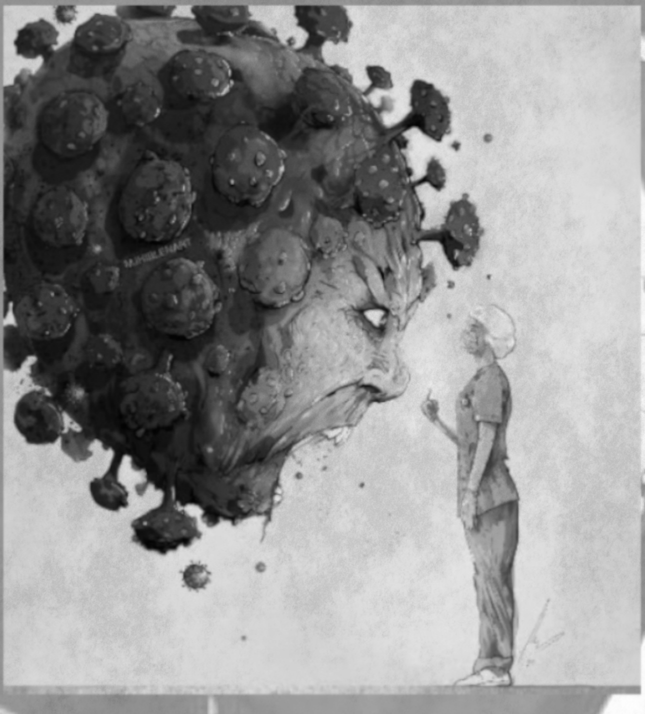
JOHN: WE'VE MANAGED TO PLAY TWO SHOWS BEFORE THE WORLD GOT TURNED UPSIDE DOWN, AND YEAH, AS TOM SAID, THAT FIRST SHOW, WE WERE ALL FUCKING NERVOUS. I THINK THAT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT COMES WITH BEING A NEW BAND THOUGH. WHILST WE'VE ALL BEEN ONSTAGE BEFORE, AND IN FACT SOME OF US HAD BEEN IN BANDS TOGETHER IN THE PAST, YOU STILL NEVER KNOW HOW IT'S GONNA WORK UNTIL YOU'RE UP THERE. IS IT ALL GONNA GEL TOGETHER? IF SOMEONE MAKES A MISTAKE, CAN THE OTHERS COVER IT? CAN YOU RECOVER FROM A MISTAKE? SO, DESPITE THIS BEING HARDCORE AND IT'S ALL A BIT LOOSE IN GENERAL, YOU STILL WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU PUT YOURSELVES OUT THERE AS BEST AS POSSIBLE. THE SECOND SHOW WAS MUCH MORE RELAXED AND WE FELT WAY MORE AT HOME. THE RESPONSES HAVE BEEN GOOD FOR THOSE TWO SHOWS AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN CONTINUE ALONG THAT PATH AND PEOPLE CONTINUE TO ENJOY WATCHING US

YOU'VE GOT THE LONDON GROOVE, BUT THERE'S SOME METAL VIBES IN THE MIX. I CAN HEAR DEATH METAL RIFFS, WHICH IS SICK. ARE THERE ANY METAL BANDS YOU THINK YOU PULL FROM?

ADAM: I WAS INTRODUCED TO A LOT OF DEATH METAL BY MARK DOOLAN. A FORMER BAND MEMBER OF HELLBENT DIEHARD AND PROVEN. I HAD LISTENED TO DEATH METAL BEFORE BUT DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT WAS AS MY INTRODUCTION TO HEAVIER MUSIC WAS THROUGH NU-METAL DURING THE 2000S. BUT, WHEN I JOINED HELLBENT DIEHARD IN 2005 I PROGRESSED INTO MUSIC LIKE HARDCORE, METAL AND DEATH METAL. MOST OF MY INFLUENCES COME FROM OLD SCHOOL DEATH METAL LIKE SUFFOCATION, DYING FETUS, CANNIBAL CORPSE, BROKEN HOPE, MORBID ANGEL, NILE, CARCASS ETC. SUFFOCATION PLAYED A BIG ROLE IN MY SONG-WRITING WITH SONGS LIKE "PIERCED FROM WITHIN" AND "FUNERAL INCEPTION" ALWAYS BEING AN INSPIRATION. A LOT OF METAL AND HARDCORE BANDS ALSO SHAPED MY PLAYING WITH THE LIKES OF IRATE, SPECIAL MOVE, STAMPIN' GROUND AND KNUCKLEDUST TO NAME A FEW. EVEN NEWER BANDS LIKE ENEMY MIND, GUILT TRIP AND EASY MONEY ARE AN INFLUENCE.

TO BE HONEST, ALL MUSIC INSPIRES ME AND BEING INSPIRED TO WRITE GOOD MUSIC IS EASIER THAN EVER WITH THE AMOUNT OF TALENT THE CURRENT SCENE HAS. IT FORCES YOU TO ALWAYS THINK OF NEWER WAYS TO PLAY


UPSURGE AND MLVLTD PRESENTS.......
0$ ENTRY!
A MLVLTD EVENT
DESOLATED
EASY MONEY
bundEMout
INFRACTION
BABE! DESOLATED ARE BACK LIVE AND DANGEROUS! AND GUESS WHAT BOO THEY'RE DOING A FREE SHOW AT THE NEW CROSS INN! AND SHOOTING A VIDEO!
PREDICTABLE REBECCA.... PREDICTABLE!
DESOLATED VIDEO SHOOT!
16TH NOVEMBER 2019
NEW CROSS INN!
LONDON



HANNAH: FOR ME, THERE'S DEFINITELY A FEW METAL BANDS THAT I'LL GO TO WHEN I'M LISTENING TO MUSIC FOR SOME INFLUENCES; THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER, METALLICA, DESPISED ICON AND BURNING SKIES BEING THE MAIN ONES.

I LISTENED TO METAL A LOT BEFORE I WAS INTRODUCED TO HARDCORE, AND THE FIRST FEW HARDCORE BANDS THAT I WAS SHOWN WERE FROM THE HEAVIER SIDE RATHER THAN MORE PUNK HARDCORE. BUT ALL ROUND I LISTEN TO A VARIED RANGE OF MUSIC AND TRY TO PULL ON IDEAS FROM OTHER GENRES.

I LOVE ALL THE ARTWORK. FORGIVE MY IGNORANCE AND SHITE WORDING ON THIS ONE, BUT FOR ANYONE THAT HASN'T SEEN, IT'S ALL LIKE COMIC BOOK-STYLE ILLUSTRATIONS OF YOU GUYS. ARE YOU COMIC BOOK FANS OR HAVE I MISSED THE MARK? WHO'S DONE THE ARTWORK?

JOHN: YEAH, IT'S VERY MUCH IN A COMIC BOOK STYLE OF ILLUSTRATION. I AM A MASSIVE NERD WHO HAS ALWAYS LOVED COMICS AND AM VERY LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN FRIENDS WITH MJ HIBLEN FOR A LONG TIME NOW (YOU'LL KNOW HIS WORK FROM THE COVID-19 ART THAT WENT VIRAL WITH THE NURSE FLIPPING THE VIRUS OFF). HE'D PREVIOUSLY DONE SOME COMMISSION WORK FOR ME AND HAD DONE A WHOLE BUNCH OF WORK FOR A PROVEN FULL-LENGTH THAT NEVER ENDED UP HAPPENING. I WANTED SOMETHING TO MAKE US APPEAR DIFFERENT FROM THE STANDARD IMAGERY YOU SEE WITH HARDCORE AND WHEN I MENTIONED IT TO THE REST OF THE BAND, THEY WERE ONBOARD. ALTHOUGH I PERSONALLY CAN'T DRAW FOR SHIT, I'M PRETTY VISUALLY MINDED, SO I'LL HAVE IDEAS FOR HOW I WANT THINGS TO LOOK AND BE LAID OUT, EVEN BEFORE WE'VE EVEN STARTED WORKING ON THE MUSIC.

ADAM: I HAVE ALWAYS READ COMICS ON AND OFF. SOME OF MY FAVOURITE AUTHORS ARE GARTH ENNIS AND TODD MCFARLANE.

SO WHEN JOHN SAID HE WANTED A MORE COMIC STYLE APPROACH TO BAND ART I WAS ALL ABOARD. IT GAVE US MORE OPTIONS TO BE CREATIVE IN NOT ONLY OUR EP ART BUT OUR SOCIAL IMAGE ON PLACES LIKE INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK.

WHEN LOOKING AT THE ARTWORK THE LISTENER CAN GET A SENSE OF WHAT THE EP IS ABOUT BEFORE EVEN LISTENING TO IT. IT KINDA REMINDS ME OF WHEN I USED TO GO INTO VIRGIN MEGASTORE (SHOWING MY AGE THERE :P) AND PICK ALBUMS PURELY BASED ON THE ARTWORK. THAT'S HOW I BOUGHT FEAR FACTORY BACK IN THE DAY HA.

MJ HIBLEN IS AN INCREDIBLE ARTIST AND I AM GLAD WE GOT TO WORK WITH HIM ON THIS.

THIS IS MORE OF A GENERAL QUESTION THAN AN INFRACTION ONE. COMING FROM THE SCENE THAT BIRTHED KNUCKLEDUST, DO YOU FEEL THERE'S A LOT TO LIVE UP TO AS A 'NEW' LONDON BAND? DO YOU THINK YOUNGER BANDS HAVE TO PUSH HARDER TO GET NOTICED THAN THEY WOULD ELSEWHERE IN THE UK?

CARY: FOR ME PERSONALLY, I NEVER FELT MY BANDS HAD TO 'LIVE UP' TO ANY OTHER BAND IF I'M HONEST. I WENT TO MY FIRST SHOW WHEN I WAS 15/16 AND JOINED IDLE HANDS WHEN I WAS AROUND 17. I QUICKLY LEARNED THE HISTORY OF LONDON HARDCORE AND LOOKED UP TO BANDS SUCH AS KNUCKLEDUST A LOT. HOWEVER, FOR ME, I NEVER WANTED TO PLAY IN A BAND THAT WERE FOCUSED ON BEING BIG OR WANTED SOME FORM OF FAME. I NEVER WANTED TO MAKE MONEY OUT OF THIS, THAT'S WHY I WORK MONDAY TO FRIDAY. I DO THIS BECAUSE IT'S A PART OF WHO I AM AND WITHOUT IT I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WOULD BE. I'VE MET SO MANY FRIENDS AND PEOPLE I CALL FAMILY THROUGH THIS AND THAT'S MY FOCUS. I COULD PLAY A SHOW TO 5 PEOPLE OR 500 PEOPLE AND JUST HOPE TO MAKE 1 PERSON IN THE ROOM SMILE.

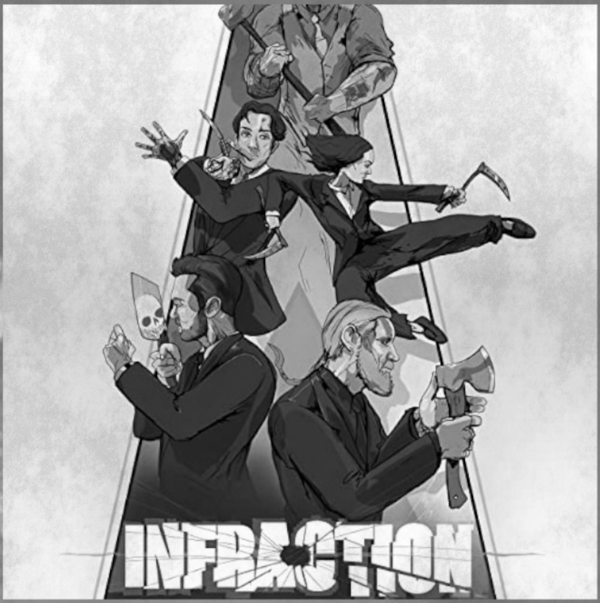
OF COURSE I COMPLETELY RESPECT BANDS THAT PAVED THE WAY FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO SOMEWHAT SUCCEED AND ENJOY BEING A PART OF THIS SCENE. I DO HOWEVER FEEL YOUNGER AND NEWER BANDS FOCUS TOO MUCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA NUMBERS AND MERCH SALES RATHER THAN THE FACT THEY'RE ON STAGE WITH THEIR MATES AND HAVING A GOOD TIME. MAYBE I'M UNIQUE BUT IDLE HANDS STARTED AS 6 BEST MATES WHO ALL SHARED A PASSION FOR HARDCORE MUSIC. SO, FOR US, IT NEVER FELT FORCED OR A BAND. IT WAS JUST US HAVING A LAUGH AND NOT WORRYING ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.

I WOULD LOVE TO SEE MORE BANDS COME THROUGH FROM ALL OVER THE UK BUT ESPECIALLY LONDON. LET'S MAKE PEOPLE WANT TO TRAVEL TO LONDON TO WATCH ANY SHOW THAT IS PUT ON. LET'S GET MORE PROMOTERS, VENUES, BANDS, FANS. THE LOT. BECAUSE IT HELPS EVERYONE OUT AND KEEPS THIS ALIVE.

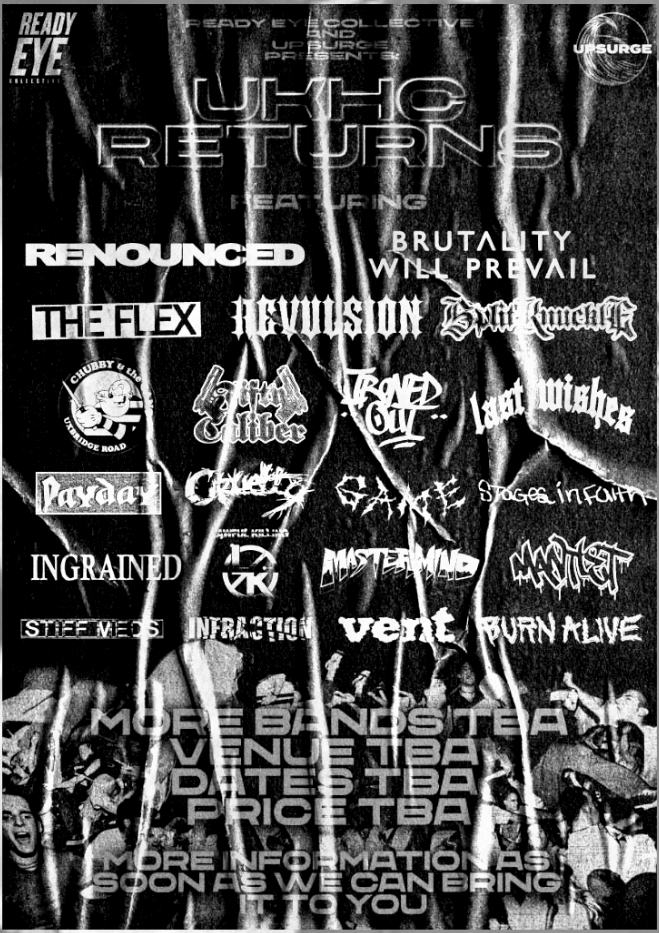
JOHN: I THINK THERE'S PROBABLY A PERCEPTION OF WHAT A LONDON BAND SHOULD "BE" BASED UPON THAT HISTORY THE CITY HAS WITH HARDCORE FROM BANDS LIKE KNUCKLEDUST AND NINEBAR. THEY ARE THE STANDARD THAT WE ALL LOOK UP TO AND AIM FOR, EVEN FOR AN OLDER GUY LIKE ME WHO'S BEEN FRIENDS WITH THAT LOT FOR YEARS, BUT AS CARY SAID, FOR US, WE'RE JUST GOING OUT THERE TO PLAY MUSIC AND HAVE FUN, YOU REALLY CAN'T WORRY ABOUT WHETHER YOU CAN LIVE UP TO CERTAIN EXPECTATIONS.

AS FOR GETTING NOTICED, WE'RE LUCKY THAT IN LONDON THERE'S PROBABLY MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO AS MOST BANDS COME THROUGH THIS CITY ON TOUR AND YOU GET THE CHANCE TO PLAY ON THOSE BILLS AND THAT GETS YOUR MUSIC TO MORE PEOPLE.

ANY NEW BAND HAS THE SAME DIFFICULTY GETTING HEARD NOW BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY BANDS AROUND. THE INTERNET AND STREAMING HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED THINGS. NOW ABSOLUTELY ANYONE CAN PUT MUSIC OUT THERE SO, IF YOU REALLY WANNA GET NOTICED, YOU'VE GOTTA PUT OUT QUALITY MUSIC. THE REASON WHY BANDS LIKE KNUCKLEDUST HAVE SURVIVED SO LONG IS BECAUSE THEY'VE PUT OUT SO MANY GOOD RELEASES WITH WELL WRITTEN SONGS. AND THAT'S THE CORE OF THIS THING, IF YOU DON'T HAVE THAT, YOU WON'T BE AROUND FOR THE LONG HAUL. THE FINAL PART OF THAT, TO ME AT LEAST, IS AUTHENTICITY. IF YOU'RE NOT SINGING ABOUT YOUR REALITY, THEN WHAT ARE YOUR SONGS? YOU MAY AS WELL START A BAND DOING SONGS ABOUT WORLD OF WARCRAFT AT THAT POINT. SO YEAH, THAT'S HOW YOU GET NOTICED, PLAY AS MANY SHOWS AS YOU CAN AND PUT 100% INTO EVERY SHOW WHETHER YOU'RE PLAYING TO A PACKED VENUE OR JUST TO THE SOUND GUY, WRITE GOOD WELL THOUGHT OUT SONGS AND BE AUTHENTIC ABOUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE. EVERYTHING ELSE IS PRETTY SECONDARY TO THAT.


INFRACTION

LISTEN TO THE BLACK ROOM HERE


READY EYE COLLECTIVE
READY EYE COLLECTIVE AND UPSURGE PRESENTS:
UPSURGE
UKHC RETURNS
FEATURING
RENOUNCED
BRUTALITY WILL PREVAIL
THE FLEX
REVULSION
CHUBBY & the
UXBRIDGE ROAD
last wishes
Payday
Stages in Faith
INGRAINED
AWFUL KILLING
MASTERMIND
STIFF MEDS
INFRACTION
vent
BURN ALIVE
MORE BANDS TBA
VENUE TBA
DATES TBA
PRICE TBA
MORE INFORMATION AS SOON AS WE CAN BRING IT TO YOU

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME. DO YOU WANNA SAY ANYTHING, GOT ANY SHOUTOUTS, OR ANY LISTENING/WATCHING/GAMING RECOMMENDATIONS?

ADAM: THE ONLY THING I CARE ABOUT IS CYBERPUNK 2077 AND WHEN I CAN GET BACK ON STAGE. MY LOVE TO EVERYONE IN THE SCENE DURING THESE TOUGH TIMES. KEEP LONDON HARDCORE ALIVE!

TOM: SHOUT OUTS TO THE MAG FOR INTERVIEWING US- MUCH LOVE! SHOUT OUTS TO THE BN1 AND 2883 FAMILY. GO LISTEN TO UKHC AND RUN THE JEWELS.

PLAY DARK SOULS, ENTER THE GUNGEON, GET ANGRY AND GO WATCH PREACHER AND SOME WEIRD DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT HISTORY.

JOHN: SHOUT OUT TO RUCKTION RECORDS AS ALWAYS, MY LBU FAMILY AND THE REST OF THE GUYS IN READY EYE COLLECTIVE WITH ME AND, OF COURSE, THE WONDERFULLY TALENTED MJ HIBLEN. WE'VE HAD AS MANY QUESTIONS BOUT THE ARTWORK AS WE HAVE THE MUSIC AND IT'S ALL HIS INCREDIBLE WORK.

CURRENTLY LISTENING TO LAST ORDERS HC/POSTAL SPLIT, WHICH IS FUCKING BANGING AND IF YOU'RE IN A SHIT MOOD, WILL DEFINITELY BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY.

AND YOU'LL FIND ME PLAYING STREET FIGHTER V ALL THE TIME (BECAUSE ONLY PUSSIES PLAY FPS OR FALL GUYS ;P)

HANNAH: THANK YOU FOR INTERVIEWING US AND SEEING WHAT WE'VE ALL GOT TO SAY AND THANK YOU TO WHOEVER READS THIS!

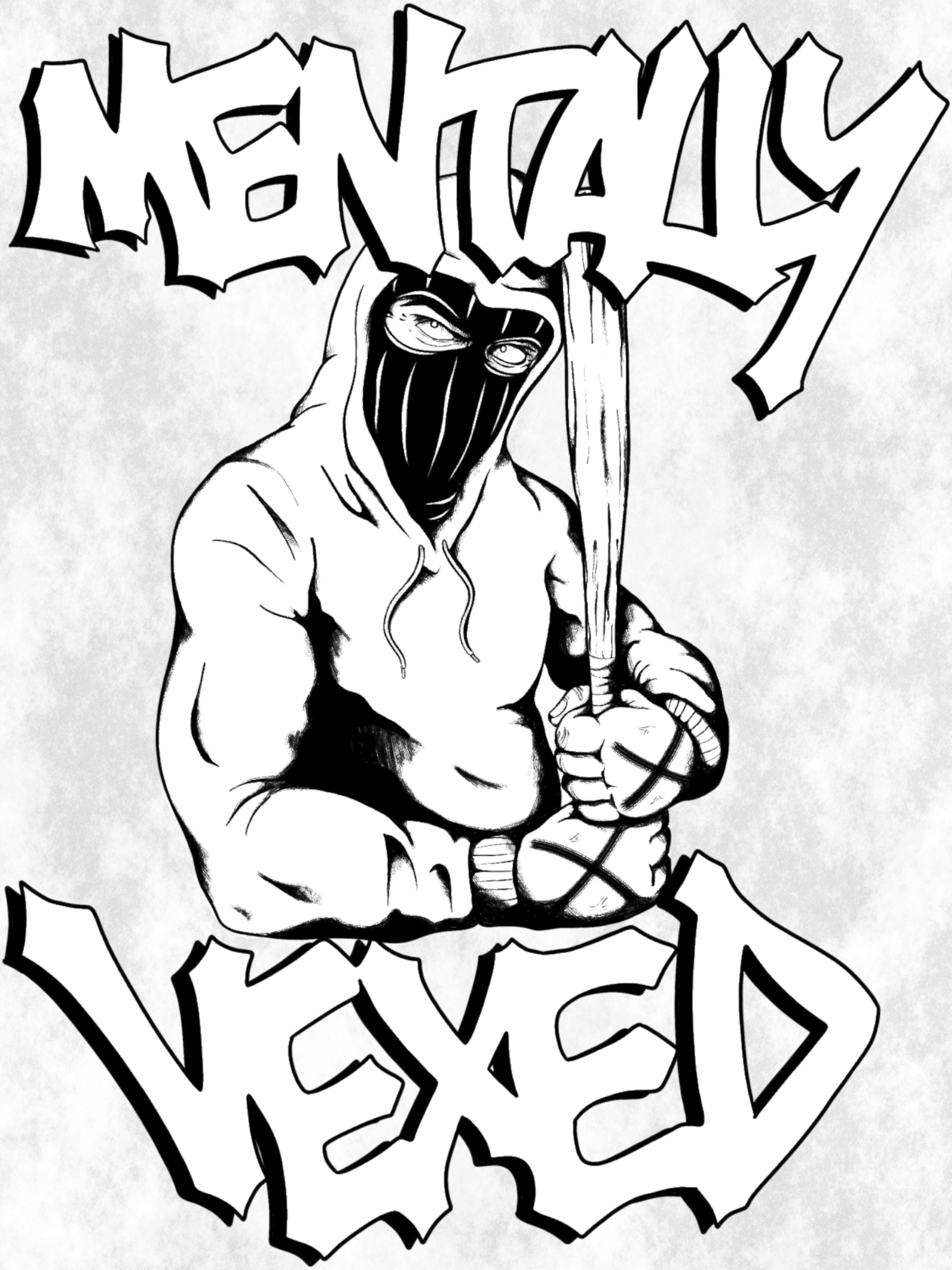
IF YOU LIKE TRAVELLING/FOOD/UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT CULTURES, WATCH ANTONY BOURDAIN PARTS UNKNOWN. SUCH AN INTERESTING GUY AND IS CONNECTED TO THE NYHC SCENE.

BEEN LISTENING TO A LOT OF CALI HC RECENTLY; DRAIN, DEAD HEAT AND DRK BLU.

CARY: I JUST WANNA GIVE A BIG SHOUT OUT TO THE BOYS IN MY OTHER BAND, IDLE HANDS

CATCH INFRACTION AT READY EYE COLLECTIVE'S UKHC RETURNS SHOW

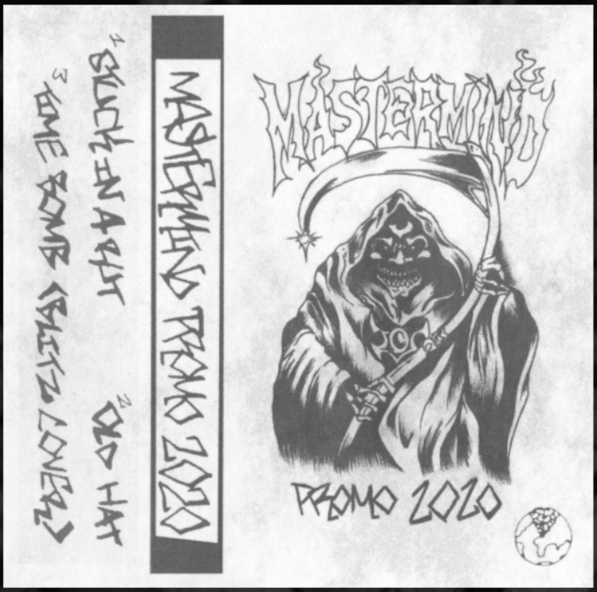
PHOTOS BY ROMAN LARIS & EMMA GRAHAM



COLOUR IN MENTALLY VEXED KEVIN AND SEND US A PHOTO ON FB, INSTA, EMAIL. WE'LL PICK A WINNER FOR THE COVER OF THE NEXT ZINE. DO WHATEVER THE FUCK YOU WANT WITH HIM. PEACE!

REVIEW CORNER

IT'S PROBABLY TIME WE DID SOME REVIEWS OR SOMETHING, YOU KNOW, LIKE A REAL ZINE? LET US KNOW WHAT YOU BEEN LISTENING TO!



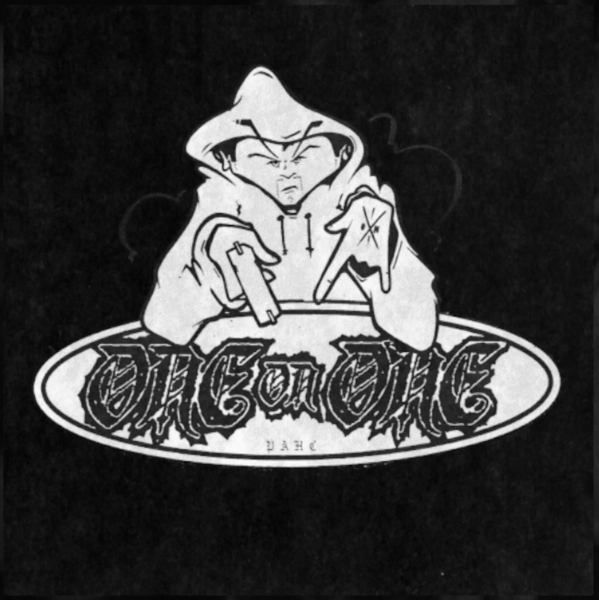
SOUTH LONDON'S MASTERMIND DROPPED THEIR 3 TRACK PROMO BACK IN MID SEPTEMBER AND IT'S STILL IN MY ROTATION AS OF MID OCTOBER, IF THAT DOESN'T TELL YOU HOW I FEEL ABOUT THIS NEARLY 8 MINUTE OFFERING THEN I DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO PUT IT.

DRAWING A CLEAR INFLUENCE FROM BANDS LIKE OUTBURST, SIDE BY SIDE AND TEN YARD FIGHT, MASTERMIND PUT THEIR OWN SPIN ON THAT CLASSIC LATE 80'S/EARLY 90'S SOUND, AND THEY DO IT VERY WELL. THE PRODUCTION ON THEIR LATEST OFFERING REALLY MAKES IT FEEL LIKE IT CAME OUT OF THAT ERA, AND CAN DEFINITELY HOLD A CANDLE MUSICALLY TO ALL OF THOSE BANDS THAT CAME BEFORE.

MY FAVOURITE TRACK OFF OF THIS RELEASE IS "OLD HAT", IT OPENS WITH A REAL STOMP RIFF WHICH JUST FEELS ABSOLUTELY MASSIVE, ALONG IT'S 2:30 RUN TIME THE SONG SHIFTS AND EVOLVES, WHICH IN MY OPINION ALREADY CERTIFIES IT AS AN ABSOLUTE RAGER.

ONCE SHOWS RESUME IN THE UK POST COVID, MAKE SURE YOU TRY AND CATCH THEM ABSOLUTELY EVERYWHERE YOU CAN, BUT MOST OF ALL YOU CATCH THEM AT UKHC RETURNS WHICH AS IT STANDS WILL HAPPEN SOMETIME BEFORE THE INEVITABLE END OF THE WORLD.

JACK BB



"IGNORANT PA HARDCORE" IS HOW THEY DESCRIBE THEMSELVES, AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT IT IS, THIS 3 TRACK EP IS RIGHT UP MY STREET. HEAVY HARDCORE JUST THE WAY IT SHOULD BE DONE, NO TRYING TO REWRITE THE RULEBOOK, NO SHIT, JUST GOOD HARDCORE.

WITH THREE TRACK RUNNING FOR A COMBINED 8 MINUTES, IT REALLY IS AN ONSLAUGHT OF MOSH ANTHEMS, MY ONLY ISSUE? IT'S NOT LONG ENOUGH. RARELY DOES A BAND STRIKE A CHORD WITH ME THIS MUCH ON A FIRST RELEASE, THE LAST BAND TO DO THAT WAS NEVER ENDING GAME.

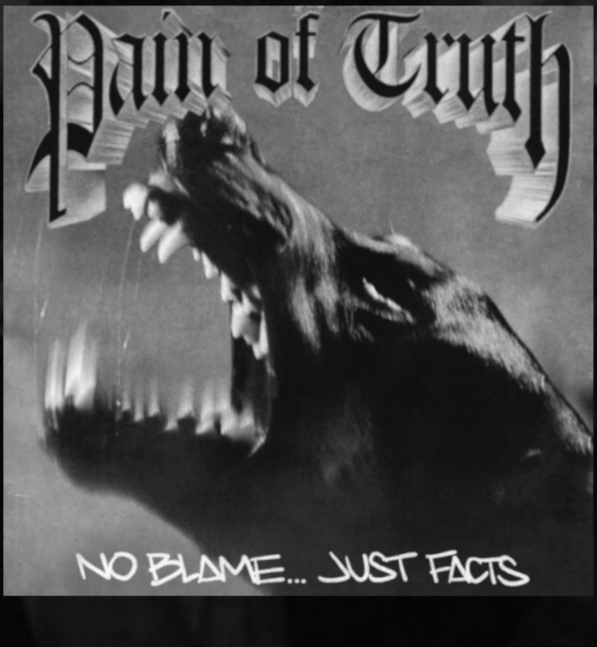
TO TALK ABOUT THIS RECORD MUSICALLY, IN THE MOST ELOQUENT WAY I CAN FATHOM; HATEBREED RIFFS WITH GREENFIELD MIKE FROM ENEMY MIND. IT IS WHAT IT SAYS ON THE TIN, IT'S TOUGH, IT'S HARD AND IT'S VISCERAL.

THIS RECORD MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST FINISHED A 600KG DEADLIFT WITHOUT EVEN BREAKING A SWEAT (THAT'S RECORD BREAKING MOTHERFUCKER), IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M 6'8 AND A GENETIC FREAK (IN THE VEIN OF SCOTT STEINER). IF THIS RECORD DOESN'T MAKE YOU FEEL HEAPS STRONGER TOO, THEN CLEARLY IT ISN'T FOR YOU.

I AM GENUINELY EXCITED TO SEE WHAT ONE ON ONE DOES NEXT, BECAUSE IF IT IS ANYTHING LIKE THIS SELF TITLED 3 TRACK, THEN IT'S GOING TO BE BIG.

IF YOU'RE TOUGH ENOUGH, HEAD OVER TO OUR FRIENDS AT NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS, THEY MAY HAVE A TAPE OR TWO LEFT.

JACK BB



ONE OF THE SUMMER'S BEST RELEASES COMES TO US IN THE SHAPE OF A FIVE TRACK EP WHICH I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS A "SUPER PROJECT".

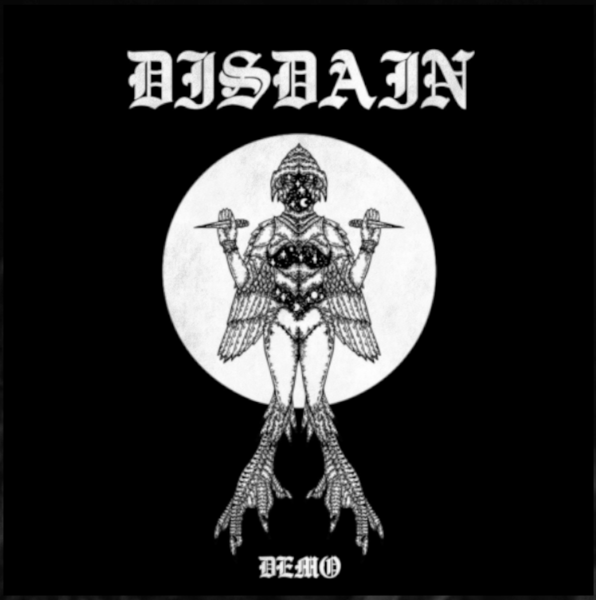
THIS 5 PIECE HAILS FROM NEW YORK'S LONG ISLAND, AND FEATURES MEMBERS OF HANGMAN, LIFE'S QUESTION, RAIN OF SALVATION AND OTHERS. BUT THIS ISN'T WHAT MAKES THIS RECORD THE PRODUCT OF A "SUPER PROJECT", THAT COMES FROM THE SHEER NUMBER OF GUEST CONTRIBUTORS WHICH INCLUDE DAN SEELEY OF KING NINE, MARTIN GONZALEZ OF BILLY CLUB SANDWICH AND TYLER MULLEN OF YEAR OF THE KNIFE JUST TO NAME A FEW.

THE BAND THEMSELVES HAVE A CERTAIN AIR OF REAL 90'S NYHC AROUND THEM IN TERMS OF THEIR SOUND, IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THEM YET THINK IN THE VEIN OF MADBALL, BILLY CLUB SANDWICH AND EVERYBODY GETS HURT.

THE RECORD ITSELF IS GREAT, FIVE TRACKS OF STRAIGHT UP HARD HITTING HATEBREED INSPIRED HARDCORE. IT DOESN'T REWRITE THE RULEBOOK OR OFFER ANYTHING WILDLY NEW AND OUT THERE. QUITE SIMPLY IT IS JUST 5 TRACKS OF REAL GOOD MOSHABLE HEAVY HARDCORE. IN MY OPINION, HARDCORE THE WAY IT SHOULD BE. WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT?

FIND NO BLAME… JUST FACTS AVAILABLE ON MULTIPLE FORMATS FROM VARIOUS DIFFERENT OUTLETS, INCLUDE DAZE, FROM WITHIN RECORDS AND OUR GOOD FRIENDS OVER AT NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS.

JACK BB



I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, WHY ARE WE REVIEWING A RECORD FROM LAST SUMMER? WELL I'LL TELL YOU WHY, BECAUSE IT'S SICK AND NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH PEOPLE PAID ANY ATTENTION TO BUT, SO NOW I'M STOOD ON THE MENTALLY VEXED SOAPBOX READY TO SHOUT ABOUT THIS RECORD.

3 SONGS, 5 MINUTES AND 17 SECONDS, 1 ERIC CLAPTON COVER. ALL IN THE VEIN OF BLACK SABBATH MEETS LIFE OF AGONY AND THEN GOES OUT TO DINNER WITH KING DIAMOND AND MERCYFUL FATE, OH AND A SPRINKLING OF BIG FAT RIFFS. IT SHORT AND SWEET, BUT FUCK ME IS IT AMBITIOUS. IT'S REALLY COOL TO SEE THIS BAND EXPLORING GENRES AND NOT IN A REALLY SELF INDULGENT WAY. THIS WHOLE DEMO FEELS AS IF IT'S WRITING PROCESS WAS A REALLY NATURAL EVOLUTION OF THE INFLUENCES THAT CLEARLY MADE THEIR MARK ON THE BAND. IT'S WELL COMPOSED AND WORKS REALLY WELL. ALSO THAT COVER OF "COCAINE" BY ERIC CLAPTON IS JUST COOL, NOTHING MORE CAN BE SAID ABOUT IT, IT'S JUST SUNGLASSES AND CIGARETTES LEVELS OF COOL.

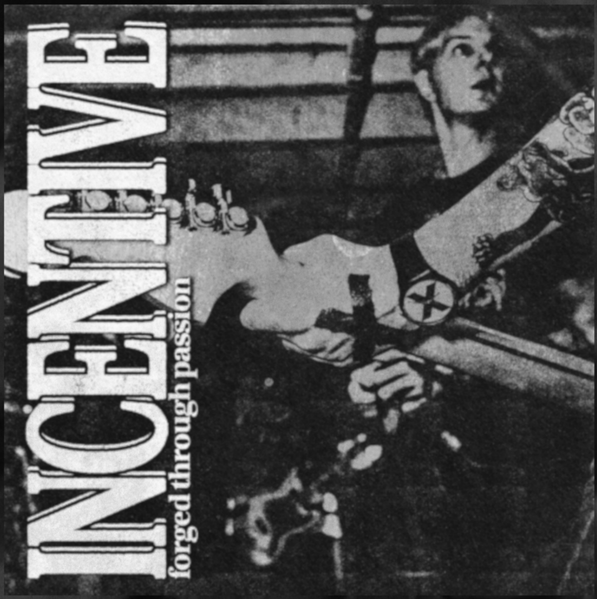
I AM REALLY EXCITED TO SEE WHAT DISDAIN COME OUT WITH NEXT, I REALLY HOPE THEY KEEP THE MUSICAL CONFIDENCE THEY EXHIBIT ON THIS DEMO AND TRANSLATE IT OVER TO A MORE POLISHED EP OR EVEN A FULL LENGTH. MV HQ HAS HEARD RUMBLINGS THAT SOMETHING IS COMING PRETTY SOON FROM DISDAIN, SOME KEEP YOUR PEEPERS LOCKED ONTO THE LEEDS OUTFIT.
JACK BB

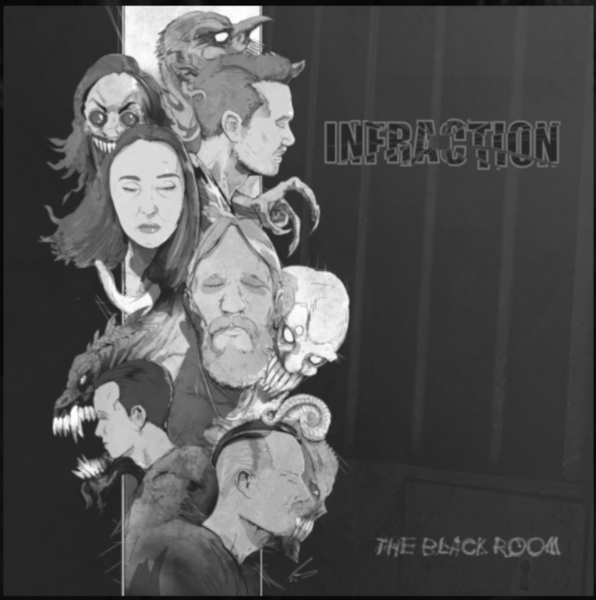
I HADN'T HEARD OF INCENTIVE (FROM TUSCON, ARIZONA) BEFORE THIS RECORD DROPPED IN SEPTEMBER. A SHORT REVIEW WOULD READ - "THE ARTWORK TELLS YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW", WHICH IS COMPLETELY TRUE, BUT IT ALSO WOULDN'T DO JUSTICE TO FORGED THROUGH PASSION.

WE HAVE SOME HEAVY CHAIN OF STRENGTH INFLUENCE FROM THE START, BUT INCENTIVE ARE BY NO MEANS RIPPING ANYONE OFF. THE MELODIES RUN THROUGH TO STOMP RIFFS, THROUGH TO BREAKDOWNS, THROUGH TO SING-ALONGS AND BACK AGAIN, AND THIS PATTERN OCCURS IN NEAR ENOUGH EVERY SONG. THERE'S ENOUGH GOING ON RIFF-WISE TO MERIT THREE GUITARISTS AT LEAST, WHILE DRUMS ARE CONSISTENT BUT STANDARD AFFAIR - IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT, RIGHT? SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE NOTED IS HOW HARD THE DRUM HITS FEEL. WHEN INCENTIVE MOVE INTO THEIR BREAKDOWNS AND STOMP RIFFS, IT STARTS TO FEEL AS THOUGH THERE'S A REAL FIRE UNDER THE KIT.

I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH ABOUT THE PRODUCTION OF THIS RECORD, IT'S SO THICK AND MEATY, AND REMINDS ME OF THE RECENT RAIN OF SALVATION EP. FORGED THROUGH PASSION MAKES YOU FEEL EMPOWERED, AND I TRULY THINK INCENTIVE HAVE PICKED THE PERFECT NAME FOR THIS EP. THEY'VE SO LOVINGLY CRAFTED EVERY SONG, EVERY TRANSITION, EVERY RIFF AND VOCAL LINE.

WITH BANDS LIKE MAGNITUDE AND ECOSTRIKE TO LOOK UP TO, STRAIGHT-EDGE HARDCORE IS IN A GOOD PLACE RIGHT NOW, AND INCENTIVE ARE CLEARLY TAKING NOTES FROM THEIR PEERS.
ALEC D





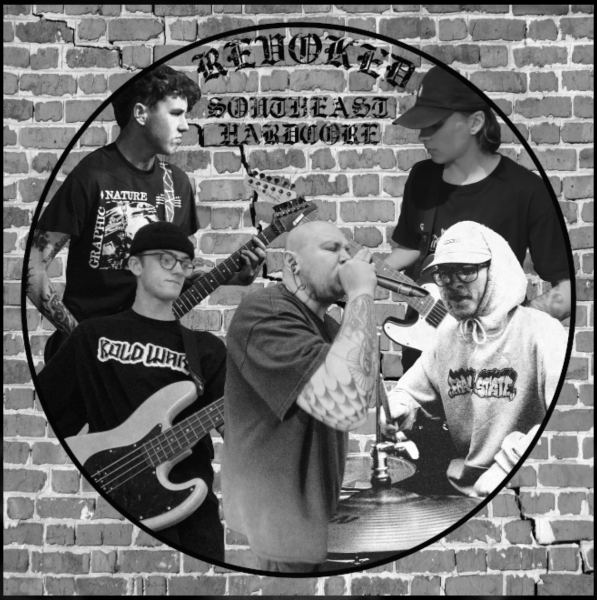
INFRACTION CONSISTS OF MEMBERS OF PROVEN, IDLE HANDS, PROTECT YA NECK AND SHIT LOADS OF OTHER BANDS YOU KNOW AND LOVE. CLASSIC LONDON MOSH SOUNDS MEET MODERN METAL. FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S DEMO NO EXCUSES FOR FAILURE, INFRACTION'S LATEST OFFERING IS LOCKDOWN EP THE BLACK ROOM.

DON'T LET MY LOCKDOWN COMMENT PUT YOU OFF - THE PRODUCTION ON THIS IS CLEAR, THICK AND PROFESSIONAL, LEAVIING ENOUGH BREATHING ROOM FOR EACH INCREDIBLE RIFF AND VOCAL LINE TO REALLY POP.

JOHN KATA CONTROLS WITH HIS VOICE AND MOSTLY BLEAK LYRICAL CONTENT. MASQUERADE IS A WELL-DESERVED POP AT THOSE WHO PRETEND TO BE SOMETHING THEY'RE NOT. THE 63RD FEELS LIKE A MORE POSITIVE "DON'T LIVE IN THE PAST", BEFORE YOU'RE DROPPED INTO THE DARKNESS AND DESPAIR OF THE BLACK ROOM AND A LONELY PLACE OF DYING.
THE RIFFS ON THIS RECORD CUT BETWEEN KNUCKLEDUST, MACHINE HEAD, AND MORBID ANGEL VIBES, AND NEVER LET UP - DEFINITELY A RECORD FOR METAL FANS AS MUCH AS HARDCORE HEADS. THE AGGRO IS RELENTLESS THROUGH THIS WHOLE EP, AND THE BAND HAVE CLEARLY MADE A CONSCIOUS COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO UP THE MOSH LEVELS, THIS WILL ABSOLUTELY KILL ON A STAGE.

THE GROOVE IS MEGA STRONG THROUGHOUT THIS RECORD, AND I CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY WITH INFRACTION AT READY EYE COLLECTIVE'S UKHC RETURNS SHOW. LISTEN TO IT, NOW!
ALEC D

PHOTO BY @JOSIXHOFFMAN



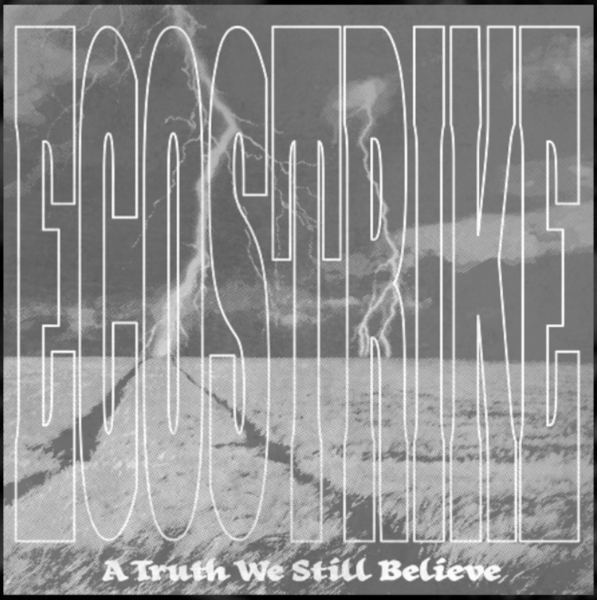
BEFORE REVIEWING THIS RECORD, I WANNA START BY SAYING THAT I WASN'T A HUGE FAN OF REVOKED'S PREVIOUS EFFORT. THESE GUYS ARE ABSOLUTE SWEETHEARTS AND WHILE LAST YEAR'S S/T EP WASN'T BAD BY ANY MEANS, IT WASN'T TO MY TASTE.

REVOKED HAVE RECENTLY BROUGHT A SECOND GUITARIST ON BOARD (SORT OF, READ OUR INTERVIEW!), AND HAVE CLEARLY BEEN LISTENING TO SOME 90'S NY & NJ GOODNESS. BEARING BOTH OF THESE POINTS IN MIND, SOUTHEAST HARDCORE HITS HARD AS FUCK!
I'M HEARING BULLDOZE, I'M HEARING REDLINE, I'M HEARING SOME NINEBAR AND KNUCKLEDUST TOO, AND IT'S ALL KEPT PRETTY FRESH WITH THE RIFFS THAT GLUE IT ALL TOGETHER. REVOKED CHOOSE NOTES AND GUITAR RUNS THAT YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT FROM WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A BEATDOWN RECORD, AND NONE OF THE TRACKS ARE LONG ENOUGH TO GET STALE OR BORING. A SOLID EFFORT, AND SURE TO FILL THE FLOOR WITH MOSHERS, I JUST WISH IT WAS LONGER - IN MY EYES, IF YOUR SONGS ARE AROUND THE 2 MIN MARK, YOU HAVE TO PUT AT LEAST 5 ON EACH RELEASE.

REVOKED HAVE PROMISED AN LP NEXT, SO HOPEFULLY THE NEXT RELEASE WILL BE MORE SATISFYINGLY MEATY. ALL THREE OF THESE TRACKS ARE GREAT, BUT DEFINITELY LISTEN TO DIVIDED KINGDOM WHILE YOU LIFT.
ALEC D

MANCHESTER'S GOING OFF RECENTLY DROPPED THEIR LATEST OFFERING, DESTROY, AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. ALTHOUGH 12 TRACKS MIGHT SEEM LIKE A GARGANTUAN OUTPUT FROM ANY HARDCORE BAND IT IS ONLY 11 MINUTES IN LENGTH. BUT THIS IS NOT TO SAY IT IS LAZY BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION.
TAKING INSPIRATION FROM TERROR AND TRASH TALK AND SOMEHOW FUSING THOSE TWO VERY DIFFERENT STYLES TOGETHER, IN A CLEVER WAY I MIGHT ADD, DESTROY SHOULD PROVIDE SOME INTERESTING LISTENING OVER THIS AUTUMNAL PERIOD.

THE RECORD ITSELF JUMPS AROUND FROM PUNKY TO VERY MUCH TERROR INSPIRED TO THEN SOME EVEN MORE METALLIC OFFERINGS, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY SOUND LIKE IT ISN'T VERY COHESIVE, THE RECORD BLENDS TOGETHER NICELY AND FLOWS WELL OVER ITS 11 MINUTE RUN TIME.
DESTROY REALLY IS THE MATURE STEP UP FROM THE PREVIOUS SELF TITLED RELEASE, AND MOST PEOPLE WOULD DO WELL TO PAY ATTENTION TO GOING OFF TO SEE WHAT THEY PUT OUT IN THE FUTURE.
JACK BB


ECOSTRIKE
A Truth We Still Believe

ECOSTRIKE ARE ONE OF THE FINEST PIONEERS OF STRAIGHT EDGE HARDCORE. THEY ARE ONE OF THOSE BANDS THAT SEEM TO EMPOWER ANY LISTENER. WHETHER YOU'RE STRAIGHT EDGE OR NOT; ECOSTRIKE LIFT PEOPLE UP AND PROVIDE THE CROWD WITH ENERGY AND SOME KIND OF ENLIGHTENMENT. 'THE NEW ECOSTRIKE RECORDS MAKES ME WANT TO GO STRAIGHT EDGE' A QUOTE BY JACK BB OF MENTALLY VEXED.

'A TRUTH WE STILL BELIEVE' IS THE LATEST ALBUM BY THE BAND, FOLLOWING 'VOICE OF STRENGTH' IN 2017.

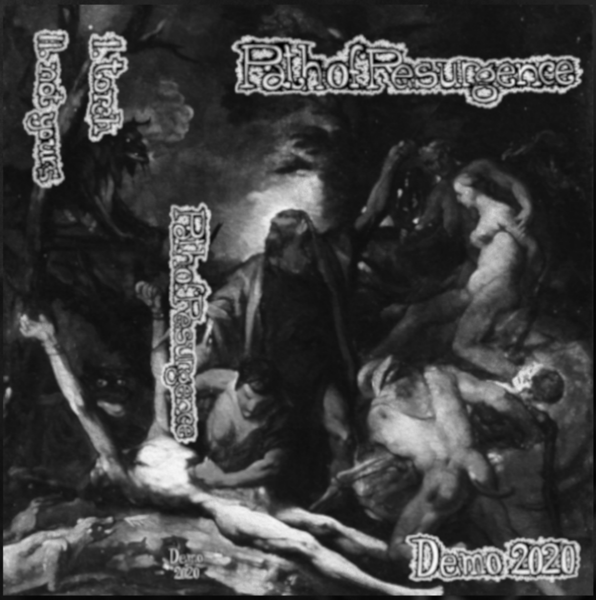
THIS RECORD WAS EVERYTHING I EXPECTED FROM THE BAND. UPBEAT RIFFS REMINISCENT OF STRIFE AND BETTER THAN A THOUSAND, TWO-STEP SECTIONS, TO-THE-POINT LYRICS ABOUT UNITY, SELLING OUT, SELF-ACCEPTANCE AND ENLIGHTENMENT AND OF COURSE, POWERFUL BREAKDOWNS THAT WILL MAKE ANYONE RAISE THEIR FIST WITH PASSION AND ENTHUSIASM. TRACKS LIKE 'ANOTHER PROMISE' BRING THAT STRAIGHT EDGE ENERGY WE LOVE ABOUT ECOSTRIKE. QUICK-FIRE YELLS THAT TRANSITION FROM SPOKEN-WORD TO SHOUTS; TENSE BUILD-UPS LAYERED WITH POETIC LYRISM. 'TOGETHER' AND 'THE QUESTION' ARE FAST PACED AND VERY REMINISCENT OF TRACKS OFF 'TIME IS NOW.' THIS RECORD PROVIDES THE LISTENER WITH EXCELLENT MUSICIANSHIP FROM ALL AREAS OF THE BAND; A SLUDGY BASS TONE, PUNCHY DRUMS AND CATCHY AS HELL LYRICS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF STRAIGHT EDGE AND COMMUNITY.
A TRUTH WE STILL BELIEVE IS EVERYTHING WE LIKE ABOUT ECOSTRIKE. THEY ARE A BAND THAT HAVE STAYED TRUE TO THEIR MESSAGE AND FIND NEW WAYS TO CELEBRATE THEIR LIFESTYLE AND MOVEMENT. THE RECORD IS EXCITING WITH A COLLECTION OF MEMORABLE SONGS, MEMORABLE LYRICS AND MEMORABLE BUILDS-UPS AND BREAKDOWNS. THE RECORD IS NOT GROUND-BREAKING BY ANY MEANS, A LOT OF THE TRACKS HOLD THE SAME STRUCTURE; HOWEVER, IT'S A FUN LISTEN FOR EVERYONE.
SAM HENNERLEY

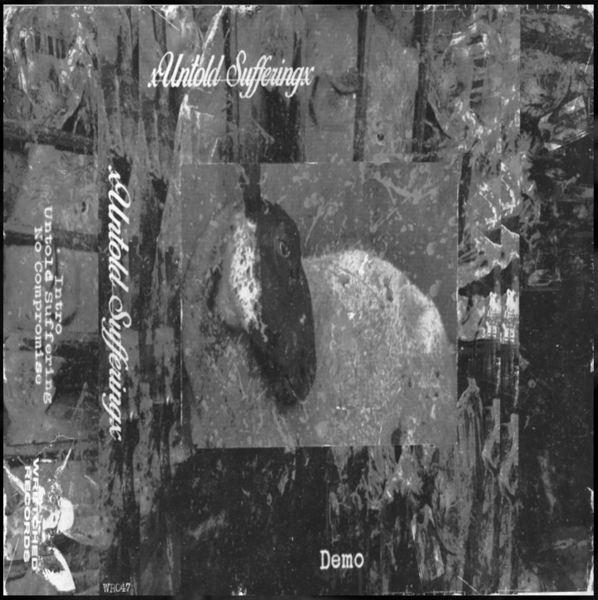
PATH OF RESURGENCE APPEARED AROUND SUMMER 2020, AND THIS DEMO HAS NOW SEEN MULTIPLE CASSETTE RELEASES. WITH THIS IN MIND, I WAS PRETTY PUMPED TO CHECK THESE TWO SONGS OUT.

I FOUND THIS RELEASE LACKING A BIT - PATH OF RESURGENCE HAVE FALLEN INTO THE TRAP OF TRYING TO BLEND TOO MANY SOUND,S WITHOUT CONCENTRATING ON ANY ONE PART LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE IT STAND OUT. THE BULK OF THE DEMO IS REMINISCENT OF XSERVITUDEX SOUNDS, BUT WITHOUT THE RIFFS TO BACK IT UP. THERE'S A LOT OF RUNG-OUT CHORDS, WHICH ARE OVER-USED IN THE ABSENCE OF ANYTHING MORE INTERESTING.

THERE'S DEFINITELY SOME GOOD MOSH-READY MOMENTS - THE END OF TORCH HAS A 10/10 MOSH RIFF WHICH IS SURE TO SEE CARNAGE IN A SMALL VENUE. THE VOCALS ARE INCREDIBLY VICIOUS, AND ANY TIME THE BAND APPROACHES A BREAKDOWN THEY START TO GET INTERESTING, BUT ULTIMATELY IT'S HARD TO GET TOO EXCITED WHEN THE RIFF THAT FOLLOWS IS SOMEWHAT UNINSPIRED.

I UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF A DEMO IS TO EXPERIMENT, AND THIS ISN'T AN AWFUL RELEASE BY ANY MEANS, BUT I HOPE THE NEXT PATH OF RESURGENCE RELEASE IS MORE WELL THOUGHT OUT, AND THAT THE BAND FINDS THEIR FEET A LITTLE MORE BEFORE THEY HIT THE STUDIO.
ALEC D





AS A VEGAN, STRAIGHTEDGE, ARKANGEL FAN, I KNEW I WAS GONNA LIKE THIS ONE. IF I DIDN'T KNOW XUNTOLD SUFFERINGX WERE FROM LONDON, I'D PROBABLY ASSUME THEY WERE FROM THE H8000 AREA OF BELGIUM, AND EVEN THE ARTWORK FITS THAT LITTLE CORNER OF HARDCORE PERFECTLY.

RECORDED BY THE BAND AND MIXED BY BOULTY OF STUCK ON A NAME (WHO XVX HEADS WILL RECOGNISE AS THE PRODUCER BEHIND XREPENTANCEX'S THE SICKNESS OF EDEN), THIS DEMO IS A SOLID FIRST OFFERING FROM THE NEW BAND. PRODUCTION QUALITY IS GREAT FOR A FIRST DEMO, OVBIOUSLY DUE TO BOULTY'S INPUT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE I WOULD IMAGINE.

THE RAGE IS THERE IN BUCKET LOADS, AS ARE THE HARMONISED GUITAR RIFFS - WHICH ARE PRETTY MUCH A METALCORE STAPLE AT THIS STAGE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE THEM ANY LESS COOL. FIN COX LYRICALLY PULLS FROM XREPENTANCEX A FAIR AMOUNT, WITH THE MAJORITY OF HIS ANIMAL LIBERATION THEMED LYRICS AIMED DIRECTLY AT OUR SOCIETY AND HUMANITY ITSELF.

THERE'S ENOUGH BREAKDOWNS AMID THE SLAYER-WORSHIP TO KEEP A HC FAN HAPPY, BUT ULTIMATELY IF YOU AREN'T VEGAN OR A FAN OF THE H8000 SCENE, YOU MAY STRUGGLE WITH THIS ONE. I PERSONALLY THINK IT'S FUCKING FANTASTIC AND CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR MORE.
ALEC D

IT SEEMED OUT OF NOWHERE THAT THE WORLD OF PLEASURE DEMO ENTERED OUR STREAMING PLATFORMS. WORLD OF PLEASURE ARE A VEGAN STRAIGHT HARDCORE BAND FROM CALGARY ALBERTA; PUT TOGETHER BY COLTER OF SERRATION, JESS FROM MORTALITY RATE AND ENGINEERED BY JORDAN CHASE OF ODDELLY RECORDING. WOP CONSISTS OF TWO INDIVIDUALS WITH AN EXISTING BACKLOG OF TALENTED MUSICIANSHIP AND PROJECTS. IT WAS A GIVEN THIS DEMO WAS GOING TO BE HIGH QUALITY, HARD-HITTING VEGAN STRAIGHT EDGE ENERGY.

THE DEMO OPENS WITH 'SWEETNESS OF LIFE;' THE INTRODUCTION CONSISTS OF A BUILD-UP CARRYING TENSION BEFORE THE SONG DROPS JESS'S VOCALS AND THE AGGRESSIVE TONE OF THE SONG. THE ENERGY AND DELIVERY OF THE VOCALS IS A HIGHLIGHT FOR THE TRACK; JESS CARRIES THE TRACK WITH HER INTENSE VOCALS AND CREATIVE LYRICISM. 'CHOOSE YOUR SIDE, OR CONTINUE TO ABUSE THE SWEETNESS OF LIFE.'
'DOMINATION' IS BOTH CHAOTIC, BUT EQUALLY IGNORANT. 'VEGAN DOMINATION' PROJECTED WITH DEMONIC VOCALS BEFORE A BREAKDOWN MID SONG FOLLOWED BUT FAST-PACED DRUMS. A LOT HAPPENS IN THE TWO MINUTES OF THE TRACK; THE TRACK IS EXCITING AND KEPT ME ENGAGED. THE LYRICS CARRY THEMES OF ANIMAL WELFARE AND QUESTIONS THE HUMANITY OF ANIMAL SLAUGHTER. NO EXCEPTIONS, NO EXCUSES, JUST PURE HATRED TO EXISTENCE OF ANIMAL CONSUMPTION. VEGAN STRAIGHT EDGE FOR FUCKING EVER.
THE DEMO FINISHES WITH 'WORLD OF PLEASURE;' WHILST ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE, THE TRACK STILL LEFT ME WANTING MORE OF THE VEGAN STRAIGHT EDGE RAGE. A COLLECTIVE END FOR THE TRACK WITH SHORT, PUNCHY LYRICS AND A FINAL 'VEGAN STRAIGHT EDGE' AND 'WORLD OF PLEASURE' FINISHER.

IGNORANT VEGAN STRAIGHT EDGE IS ALIVE AND WELL IN 2020.
SAM HENNERLEY

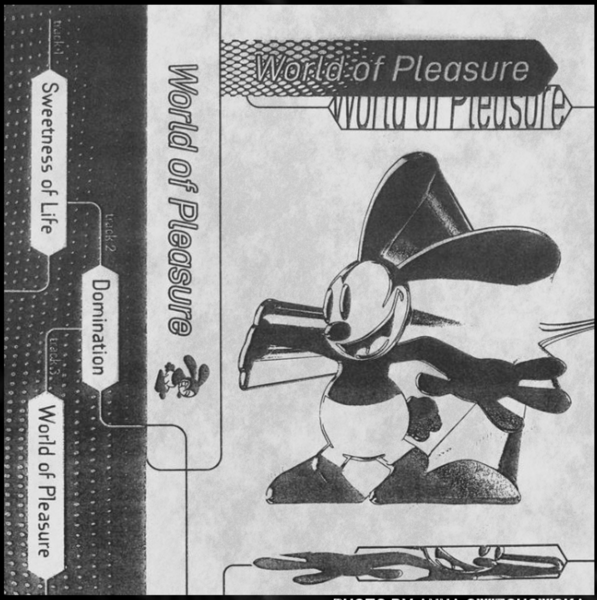


PHOTO BY ANNA SWIECHOWSKA

xUntold Sufferingx

HEY FIN, WHAT'S GOOD? FIRST COULD YOU INTRODUCE THE BAND MEMBERS? ANYONE PLAY IN OTHER BANDS?

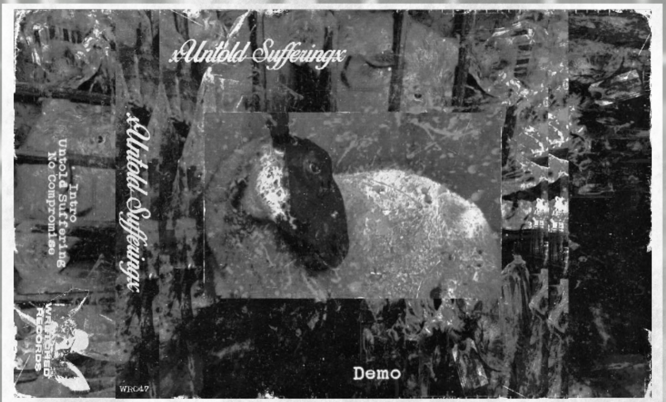
I'M ON VOCALS, SHAUN'S ON LEAD GUITAR, JACK PLAYS RHYTHM GUITAR, LIBBY IS ON BASS, DAN'S ON DRUMS
JACK IS CURRENTLY IN REVOKED AND DAN PLAYS IN ILL INFORMED.

YOU'VE JUST RECENTLY GOT THE LINEUP TOGETHER, BUT I BELIEVE YOU'VE PERSONALLY BEEN WORKING ON THE MATERIAL FOR A LONG TIME RIGHT?

YEAH, WE STARTED THE BAND BACK IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR BUT BACK THEN IT WAS JUST ME AND LIBBY. JACK AGREED TO JOIN THE BAND AS GUITARIST, AND OUR FRIEND LUKE JOINED AS SECOND GUITAR AND WE STARTED WORKING ON A DEMO. WE DIDN'T HAVE A DRUMMER AND WE COULDN'T FIND ONE SO WE ENDED UP JUST SCRAPPING THE BAND. IT CAME ROUND TO ABOUT A MONTH AGO AND ME, LIBBY AND JACK DECIDED TO GIVE IT ANOTHER SHOT AND WE FOUND SHAUN AND DAN AND THAT'S BEEN US SINCE.

WHAT'S YOUR WRITING PROCESS WHEN YOU'RE WORKING ALONE?

I NEVER REALLY HAD ONE, I'D USUALLY JUST WRITE WHOLE SONGS LYRICALLY AND TRY FIGURE OUT ROUGH FLOW IN MY HEAD. I'VE GOT LITTLE/NO INSTRUMENTAL TALENT SO I'D JUST END UP WITH PAGES AND PAGES OF LYRICS WHICH I'VE ENDED UP ADAPTING TO OUR INSTRUMENTALS.



IT FEELS LIKE XVX IS HAVING A BIT OF A RESURGENCE, IN TERMS OF BANDS BEING FORWARD AND OPEN ABOUT ANIMAL RIGHTS AND SOBER LIVING. WE HAD A COUPLE OF YEARS WHERE THERE WASN'T TOO MUCH HAPPENING, PARTICULARLY IN THE UK, DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY REASON FOR THAT?

I'M NOT SURE XVX BANDS HAVE BEEN PROMINENT IN UK HARDCORE FOR A LONG TIME. WE HAD SOME LEGENDARY ACTS IN THE 90S/EARLY 00S (STATEMENT, UNBORN, SLAVEARC, WITHDRAWN ETC.) BUT I CAN'T THINK OF MANY PROMINENT XVX BANDS FROM THE UK SINCE THEN UNTIL XREPENTANCEX CAME ALONG AND I THINK THEY WERE SUCH A GAME CHANGER. THEY REALLY MADE VEGAN STRAIGHT EDGE IMPORTANT AND I THINK THEY HAD A REAL INFLUENCE ON THE SCENE. SINCE THEY SPLIT THERE HASN'T REALLY BEEN ANY BAND TO FILL THEIR SHOES, UNTIL XSERVITUDEX BUT EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT THE SITUATION WITH XSERVITUDEX, AND IT'S UTTERLY DISAPPOINTING THAT SOME OF THEM EXPRESSED OTHER VIEWS WHICH AREN'T ACCEPTABLE IN HARDCORE/WIDER SOCIETY, AS THE BAND HAD SOME GOOD LYRICAL CONTENT IN REGARDS TO VEGANISM. I ALSO THINK THAT VEGANISM BECOMING MORE MAINSTREAM OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS PERHAPS MEANS THAT SOME BANDS DON'T NECESSARILY FEEL THE NEED TO SING ABOUT IT. IT'S NOT A NICHE COUNTER CULTURAL MOVEMENT ANYMORE. BUT IT'S ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT THERE ARE SOME NEWER BANDS STARTING OUT THAT SEE IT AS AN IMPORTANT TOPIC AND WANT TO FOCUS IT IN THEIR MUSIC.

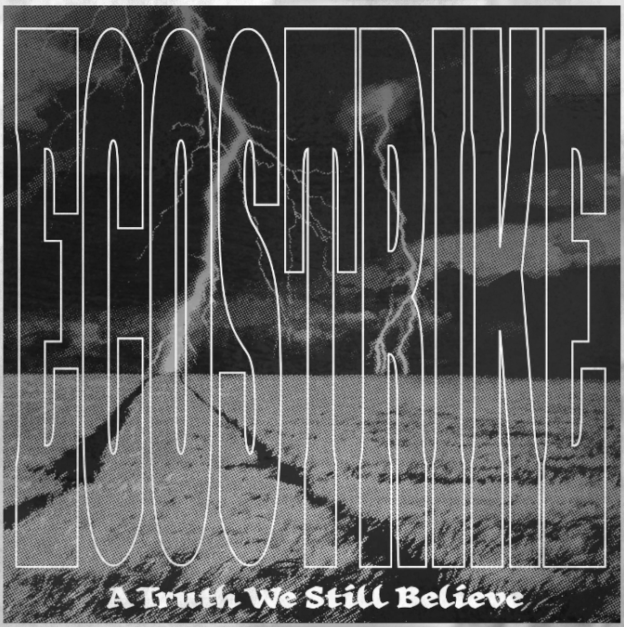
"IF YOU'RE NOT VEGAN AND YOU MAKE EXCUSES, YOU OBVIOUSLY FEEL BAD, JUST EDUCATE YOURSELF AND MAKE THE CHANGE IT'S SO EASY."

ANIMAL
xUntold Sufferingx
LIBERATION

YOU DROPPED A TEASER CLIP RECENTLY - I CAN HEAR H8000 INFLUENCES MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, AND THERE'S A BIG ARKANGEL VIBE, DO YOU THINK THAT'S FAIR TO SAY? WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING FROM WHEN YOU WRITE?

YEAH, I'D SAY IT'S REALLY FAIR, THERE'S A BIG INFLUENCE THERE. WITH THE GUITAR WRITING I THINK SHAUN COULD ANSWER BEST, SO HERE'S HIS TAKE:
THERE ARE DEFINITELY ARKANGEL INFLUENCES. I THINK MY BIGGEST INFLUENCES ARE PROBABLY BANDS LIKE REPRISAL, SENTENCE, PURIFICATION, ABSENCE. ITALY PRETTY MUCH PERFECTED METALCORE IN THE LATE 90S/EARLY 00S. AND SLAYER, OF COURSE - THEY'VE PROVIDED THE FOUNDATION FOR MOST METALLIC HARDCORE TO RIP OFF RIFFS FOR DECADES. I'M NOT LOOKING TO REINVENT THE WHEEL WHEN I WRITE A RIFF OR A SONG. I JUST WANT IT TO SOUND HEAVY, DARK, HARD - LIKE SOMETHING I'D WANT TO LOSE MY SHIT TO AT A SHOW.

DEMO 2020 IS AVAILABLE ON ALL STREAMING PLATFORMS, OR YOU CAN LISTEN HERE


ECOSTRIKE
A Truth We Still Believe

ARE THERE ANY CURRENT XVX BANDS YOU THINK PEOPLE SHOULD BE LISTENING TO?
DELIVERANCE, ENVISION, ECOSTRIKE, GLASS KILLING FOOR, ARCHOTE, DECLARACION, VITAL FORCE.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT VEGANISM WITH OMNIS, THE EXCUSES YOU USUALLY HEAR ARE EITHER "I COULDN'T GIVE UP ____", OR "I DON'T WANT TO EAT SALAD ALL THE TIME". DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE, OR ANYTHING TO SAY TO THESE PEOPLE?
THE ALTERNATIVES ARE THERE, THEY TASTE THE SAME IF NOT BETTER. I NEVER EAT SALAD AS A MEAL EITHER I THINK IT'S THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION ABOUT VEGANISM. WE LITERALLY EAT THE SAME AS MOST PEOPLE BUT SUBSTITUTE ANIMAL PRODUCTS FOR ALTERNATIVES. IF YOU'RE NOT VEGAN AND YOU MAKE EXCUSES, YOU OBVIOUSLY FEEL BAD, JUST EDUCATE YOURSELF AND MAKE THE CHANGE IT'S SO EASY.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN STRAIGHTEDGE FOR? WAS THERE A TURNING POINT, LIKE A RECORD OR A BOOK, THAT MADE YOU THINK "OK, STRAIGHTEDGE IS FOR ME"?
NINE MONTHS GIVE OR TAKE A LITTLE. I SUFFERED WITH ADDICTION WHEN I WAS IN MY EARLY TEENS AND WHEN I FINALLY GOT SOBER FROM THEM I KEPT ON DRINKING. I FINALLY JUST STOPPED ONE DAY AND THOUGHT IT WAS POINTLESS TO WASTE MY LIFE BEING A MESS. I'D SAY A RECORD THAT HAD A BIG INFLUENCE WAS BREAKING POINT'S SET TO BURN THE TRACK ETERNAL PLEDGE IS SO SIMPLE BUT GETS THE MESSAGE ACROSS "MY LIFE MY CHOICE"

THE XUNTOLDSUFFERINGX EP WILL BE COMING OUT IN WRETCHED RECORDS SOON, WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE EXPECT FROM THE EP? *EDIT - THIS IS OUT NOW!*
MILITANT VEGAN VOCALS. TREMOLOS, CHUGGING RIFFS, 2 STEPS AND BREAKDOWNS. WE'VE ALSO GOT A SOLO FOR GOOD MEASURE

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME MAN, ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?
GO VEGAN, STAY VEGAN. CHECK OUT THE DEMO TEASER IF YOU HAVEN'T @XUNTOLDSUFFERINGX ON INSTAGRAM, THANKS.

BREAKING POINT
SET TO BURN

"I SUFFERED WITH ADDICTION WHEN I WAS IN MY EARLY TEENS AND WHEN I FINALLY GOT SOBER FROM THEM I KEPT ON DRINKING. I FINALLY JUST STOPPED ONE DAY AND THOUGHT IT WAS POINTLESS TO WASTE MY LIFE BEING A MESS."

WRETCHED
RECORDS

XUNTOLD SUFFERINGX DEMO TAPES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT WRETCHED RECORDS FROM 17TH OCTOBER 2020. YOU CAN ALSO PICK UP PROMO SHIRTS FROM THE BAND FROM 17TH OCT.

MEET BIRMINGHAM PHOTOGRAPHER DEC BRECKON (@DECCYB94). DEC ALWAYS GETS RIGHT INTO THE ACTION, AND ALWAYS MANAGES TO CAPTURE INCREDIBLE SHOTS OF ALL YOUR FAVOURITE BANDS. YOU'LL PROBABLY RECOGNISE SOME OF HIS SHOTS THROUGH HIS SIGNATURE LIGHT TRAILS. DEC ALSO PLAYS IN SEVERANCE, AND SOMEHOW MADE TIME TO ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS FOR US. CHECK IT OUT!

HEY MAN, HOPE YOU'RE GOOD! STRAIGHT IN - HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO PHOTOGRAPHY?

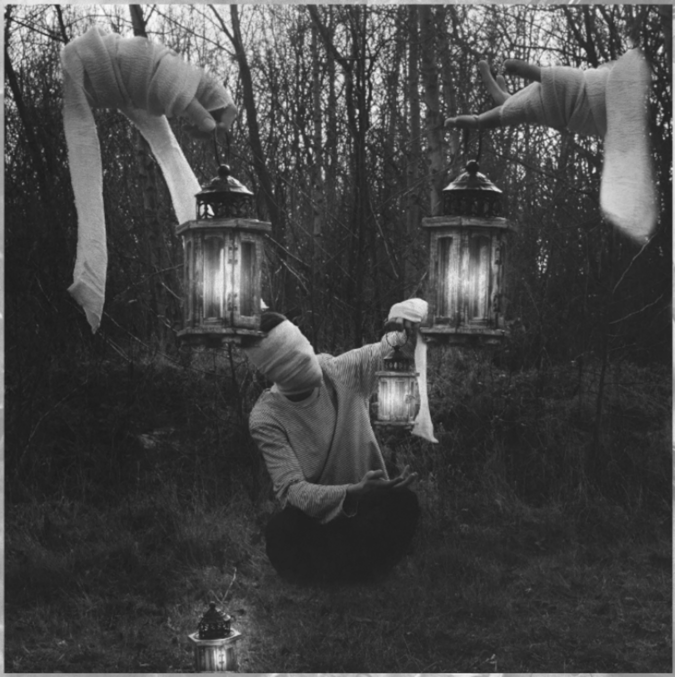
HEY! THANKS FOR ASKING ME TO BE PART OF THIS! I'M DOING GOOD THANKS, JUST LOSING MY MIND A LITTLE BIT BEING AT HOME MOST OF THE TIME.

I THINK IT WAS LATE 2014 IT STARTED. I MOVED IN WITH TWO OF MY BEST FRIENDS IN AUGUST THAT YEAR AND BOTH WERE HEAVILY INTO PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE TIME. OLD HEADS MIGHT REMEMBER SIKCUB PHOTOGRAPHY FROM GHOSTFEST/CELLAR FEST ETC WITH HIS BAND SHOTS AND ABSTRACT STUFF AND MY OTHER FRIEND OLLIE USED TO DO SIMILAR FINE ART/ABSTRACT SHOOTS. OLLIE HAD JUST UPGRADED HIS CAMERA AND HAD AN OLD NIKON D3000 SPARE WHICH HE OFFERED TO ME FOR A STUPIDLY LOW PRICE SO I DECIDED TO GIVE IT A GO!

THIS PHOTO OF CAL WAS FROM THE FIRST SHOW I SHOT (CRUSHED BY FACEBOOK, ONLY PLACE I COULD FIND IT AS I DON'T HAVE THE RAW FILES)

WAS IT ALWAYS ABOUT SHOOTING BANDS, OR DO YOU SHOOT OTHER STUFF TOO?

FOR THE FIRST YEAR I DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER TRYING LIVE MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHY. I WAS ALL ABOUT FINE ART/ABSTRACT STUFF LIKE MY FLATMATES. I USED TO BE HEAVILY RELIANT ON PHOTOSHOP AND PROPS FOR WEIRD LOOKING PHOTOS AND FINDING OBSCURE PLACES TO TAKE THEM. AUGUST 2015 WAS THE FIRST TIME I DECIDED TO SHOOT A LIVE SHOW AT MY LOCAL VENUE AND IT WAS MY FRIEND'S BAND DRAIN (AN OLD BAND FROM MEMBERS OF CHAMBER UK) AND MY FIRST TIME MESSING AROUND WITH A FISHEYE LENS AND A FLASH!



THIS SNAP IS THE KIND OF THING I USED TO DO!

> ***"YEAH I AM PRETTY IN YOUR FACE WITH MY CAMERA SOMETIMES. I'D LIKE TO THINK I'M MORE RESPECTFUL IN THE SENSE THAT I DUCK IN AND OUT AND TRY MY ABSOLUTE BEST TO BE OUT OF THE WAY 99% OF THE TIME BUT WHEN I'M TAKING THE SHOT, I'M COMING FOR YA."***

YOU'VE GOT A VERY DISTINCTIVE STYLE, AND PLAY WITH THE VENUES' LIGHTING A LOT. YOU GET RIGHT UP CLOSE TO THE BANDS. DID YOU DEVELOP THAT OVER A PERIOD OF TIME OR WAS IT NATURAL?

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THAT PHOTO FROM THE FIRST SHOW I SHOT, I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO PLAY WITH THE LIGHTING AT FIRST. THE COMPOSITION/SHOOTING STYLE WAS THERE BUT THE LIGHT TRAILS WEREN'T. I TOOK A LOT OF INFLUENCE FROM MY GOOD FRIEND SIKCUB AND I LEARNT PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT CAMERAS FROM HIM. I THINK YOU CAN SEE FROM MY EARLIER PHOTOS WITH LIGHT TRAILS TO NOW THAT I FOUND MY FEET A BIT MORE WITH IT. EARLY DAYS THERE WERE DEFINITELY SHOWS I'D COME AWAY FROM THAT I'D BEEN COMPLETELY DISAPPOINTED WITH WHAT I'D TAKEN BUT NOW I'M PRETTY HAPPY EVERY TIME.

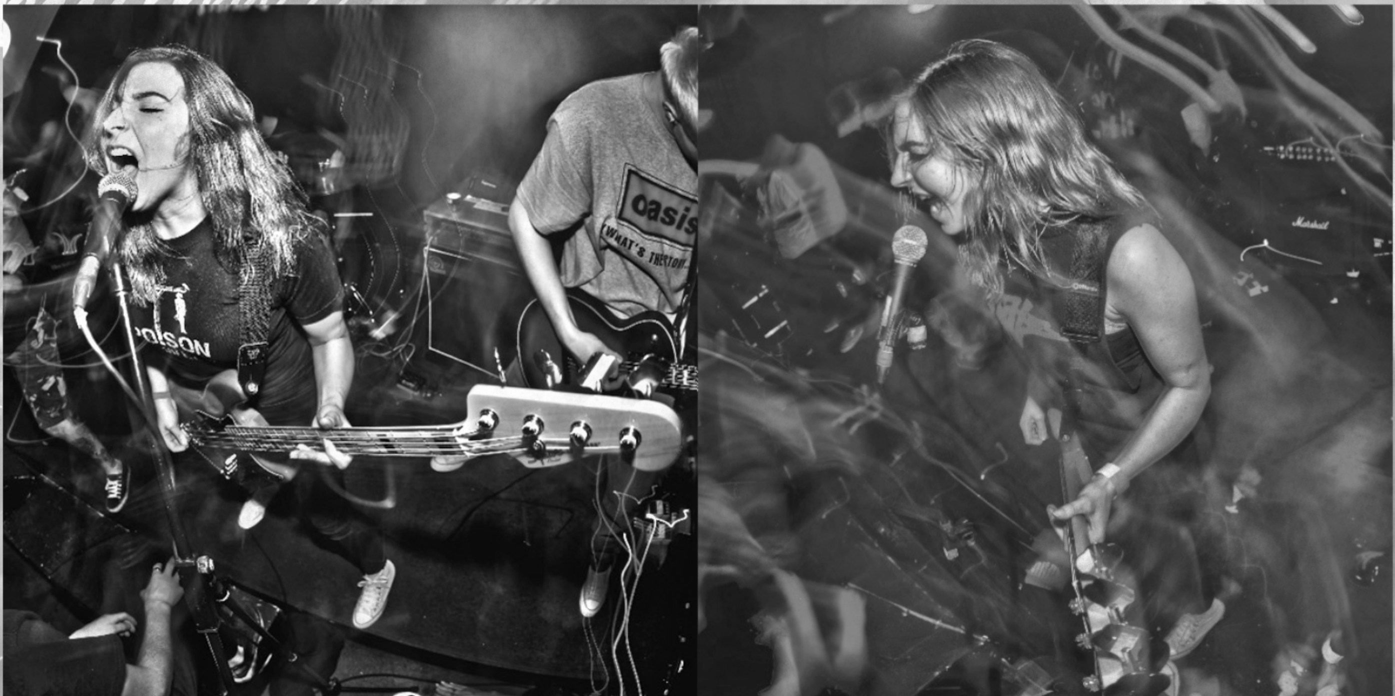
I THINK IT'S MY EDITING AND COMPOSITION THAT'S COME A LONG WAY SINCE STARTING. I USED TO HDR EVERYTHING, I FELT LIKE IT GAVE MORE TO AN IMAGE BUT I WAS A NAIVE PHOTOGRAPHER WITH JUST PHOTOSHOP AT MY DISPOSAL. AFTER INVESTING IN LIGHTROOM I THINK MY IMAGES LOOK A LOT BETTER AND I HAVE A MUCH EASIER TIME EDITING. SOME WARRANT A HDR EDIT EVERY NOW AND THEN IF I THINK I CAN MAKE IT LOOK MORE CRAZY THAT IT ALREADY DOES.

HAHAHA YEAH I AM PRETTY IN YOUR FACE WITH MY CAMERA SOMETIMES. I'D LIKE TO THINK I'M MORE RESPECTFUL IN THE SENSE THAT I DUCK IN AND OUT AND TRY MY ABSOLUTE BEST TO BE OUT OF THE WAY 99% OF THE TIME BUT WHEN I'M TAKING THE SHOT, I'M COMING FOR YA. I MIGHT UPSET A FEW HERE, BUT I'M NOT A FAN OF PHOTOGRAPHERS THAT STAND IN FRONT OF THE BAND FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE SET. I TRY TO GET MY SHOT AND GET OUT. I DO RUN IT PAST MOST BANDS I SHOOT BEFORE I DO IT AND IF THEY DON'T LIKE THE IDEA THEN RESPECTFULLY, I'LL HOLD BACK FROM DOING MY USUAL THING. THOUGH I DO LIKE TO DIP IN AND OUT OF THAT STYLE A BIT NOW WITH SOME WIDER SHOTS;

WHAT'S THE BEST UK VENUE FOR LIVE SHOTS AND WHY?
TOUGH QUESTION. I LOVE SUBSIDE IN BIRMINGHAM FOR THE LIGHTS AND THE EASE OF GETTING AROUND THE STAGE TO SHOOT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. BOOM (EX TEMPLE OF BOOM) IN LEEDS IS ANOTHER FAVOURITE, LOVE THE VENUE, LOVE THE LIGHTS BUT NAVIGATING THAT STAGE IS THE HARDEST PART. FOR DRUMMER SHOTS I HAVE TO GET ON THE STAGE AND HIDE BEHIND THE CABS AND POP UP EVERY NOW AND THEN SO I'M NOT SEEN.

I THINK MY WORST ENEMY SO FAR HAS BEEN AUDIO IN GLASGOW. I LOVE THE VENUE AND THE LIGHTS BUT FOR THE STYLE I DO (IF I'M LIGHT TRAILING ETC) THE SMOKE MACHINE IS MY BIGGEST FEAR.

ONE OF MY FAVOURITE SHOTS FROM THE YOTK RUN LAST YEAR SHOWS THE DIFFERENCE. NOTTINGHAM (LEFT); NO SMOKE MACHINE, NICE CLEAR IMAGE OF EVERYTHING GOING ON WITH A FEW LIGHT TRAILS. GLASGOW (RIGHT); SMOKE MACHINE HELL, THE SMOKE SPREADS THE LIGHT IN THE IMAGES AND YOU END UP WITH THIS MIST OF RED...

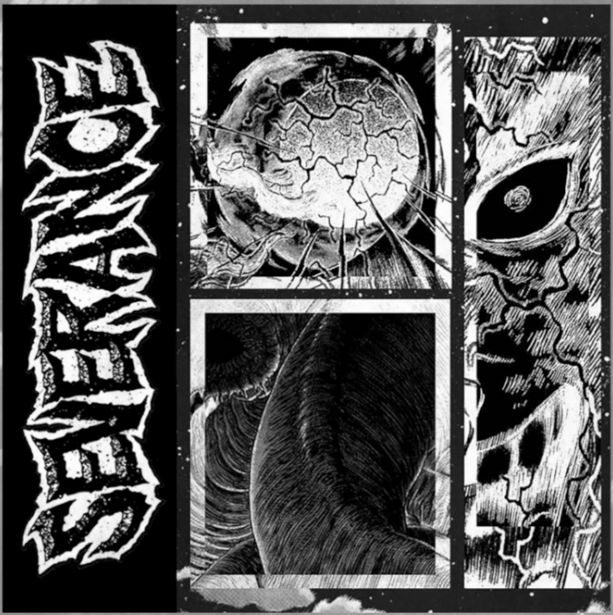


AND WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE BANDS TO SHOOT?
I THINK AN OBVIOUS CHOICE HAS GOT TO BE CAULDRON AND PHAZE TWO, THEY'RE ALL MY BEST FRIENDS AND THEY TAKE ME OUT TO SHOWS ALL THE TIME. SHOOTING YEAR OF THE KNIFE LAST YEAR FOR THAT WEEK'S RUN IN MAY WAS AN EXPERIENCE FOR SURE, I'M THANKFUL FOR THEM LETTING ME DO IT AS I WAS OUT ON THE RUN WITH CAULDRON.

THE THREE BANDS I'VE HAD THE MOST FUN SHOOTING WOULD DEFINITELY BE VEIN AT THE FLAPPER IN BIRMINGHAM, SEEYOUSPACECOWBOY IN LEEDS AND XVICIOUSX AT FALL IN THE BRAWL, MANCHESTER LAST YEAR. ALL BANDS WITH INCREDIBLE ENERGY AND STAGE PRESENCE THAT MAKES SHOOTING THEIR SETS REALLY ENJOYABLE.

YOU STARTED A NEW BAND EARLIER THIS YEAR. CAN YOU DESCRIBE SEVERANCE TO ANYONE THAT HASN'T HEARD THE EP?
HAHA YEAH, WISH WE'D HAD A CHANCE TO DO MORE BY NOW, BUT HERE WE ARE. THE BEST WAY I CAN DESCRIBE IT IS ENERGY DRINK FUELLED METALCORE. ME AND JACK WROTE THAT ENTIRE EP SAT IN MY OLD BEDROOM ON EVENINGS AFTER I'D FINISHED WORK. WE TOOK INFLUENCE FROM PLACES PEOPLE WOULDN'T REALLY THINK SO I FIND IT HARD TO PUT A LABEL ON WHO WE SOUND LIKE EXACTLY.

DO YOU HOPE TO PLAY SHOWS WHEN WE GET BACK TO NORMAL, OR IS THIS A STUDIO PROJECT?
SHOWS 100%. WE HAD SOME LINED UP READY TO ANNOUNCE/PLAY BEFORE LOCKDOWN CAME IN AND I'M REALLY GUTTED WE DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO PLAY LIVE EVEN ONCE BEFORE 2020 WENT TO SHIT.



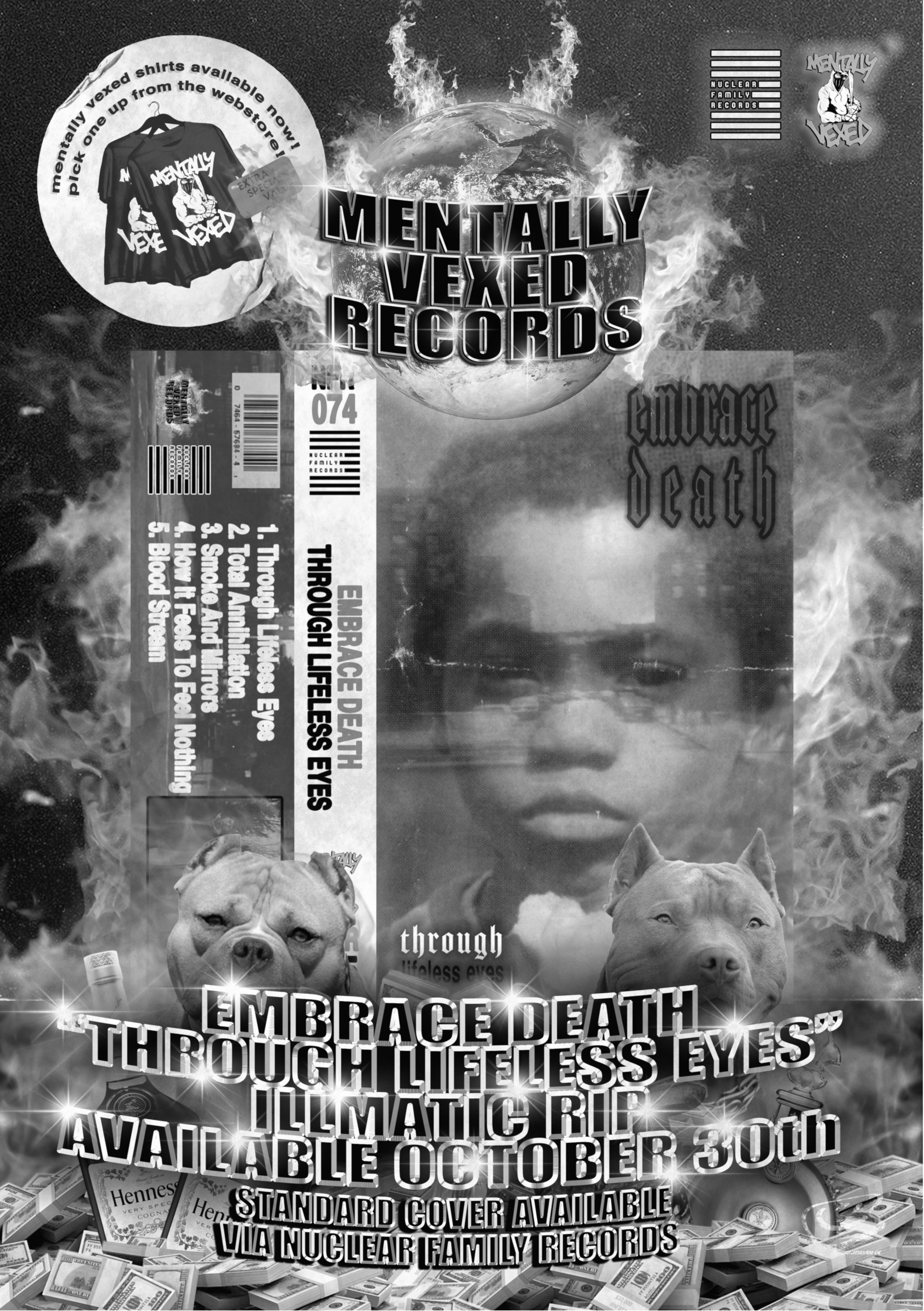
ANY NEW MATERIAL ON THE WAY?
FOR SURE. WE HAVE A COVER COMING OUT ON THE COMING STRIFE COMPILATION END OF SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER AND ME AND JACK HAVE BEEN JAMMING AT HOME. JACK'S WRITTEN A WHOLE NEW SONG AND I'VE GOT PARTS I NEED TO TIE TOGETHER PROPERLY FOR A SECOND, SO MOST LIKELY A 2 TRACK EP.

CAN BANDS BOOK YOU TO SHOOT THEIR SHOWS? HOW CAN PEOPLE GET IN TOUCH?
WHEN EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMALITY FOR SURE. I'LL BE WAY MORE AVAILABLE HOPEFULLY TOO (I CURRENTLY WORK FULL TIME AND I'M IN MY FINAL YEAR OF UNI ON TOP). HIT ME UP ON INSTAGRAM; @DECCYB94 OR EMAIL ME AT DECCYB94@OUTLOOK.COM!

ANY SHOUTOUTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS? ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY?
SHOUT OUT RTO, CAULDRON, PHAZE TWO, CVHC, MANTLET, CLIMATE OF FEAR AND TO THE NORTHERNERS IN REVOLVE AND NULL.

BIG LOVE TO ANYONE WHO SUPPORTS MY PHOTOGRAPHY AND LIKES MY WORK. AS SOMETHING I ENJOY MORE THAN MOST THINGS IT REALLY MEANS A LOT.

PHOTOS BY DEC BRECKON AND JOE GALKOWSKI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ILLMATIC RIP
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STANDARD COVER AVAILABLE
VIA NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS

LISTENING DIARIES

Hello
my name is
DAN WILSON
PHAZE TWO

WE TASKED DAN TO KEEP A 7 DAY LISTENING DIARY, HERE'S WHAT HE LISTENS TO ON A WEEKLY ROTATION.

Monday:
I Am The Avalanche - Avalanche United

I know there will be people questioning my decision to listen to this band rather than The Movielife, but you cannot deny that some of the choruses on this record are incredible. It feels raw, honest and sonically isn't a million miles away from The Movielife. Fans of pop punk with heavier leanings towards punk should listen to this immediately.

Favourite track: The Gravedigger's Argument.

Tuesday:
One Scene Unity Comp

This is a fantastic selection of good songs from good current hardcore bands. You'll see from the rest of this list I struggle to keep up to date with current hardcore, sometimes hardcore at all, so this comp was a massive breath of fresh air.

Favourite track: Old Habits by Hangman.

Wednesday:
Close Your Eyes - We Will Overcome

This band was signed to Victory Record so it counts okay? Released in 2010 it sounds exactly how you'd expect, mosh parts into singing about God back into mosh parts: rinse and repeat. It works though. Song for the Broken was featured at the beginning of an A Day To Remember music video on the Victory Records YouTube channel and that advertising could not have been more targeted towards me. I listened to this album and have loved it since.
Only this one though, the rest sucked.

Favourite track: A Proclamation.

Thursday:
Fall Out Boy - From Under The Cork Tree

What’s to say that hasn’t already been said? From the ashes of a terrible metalcore band rose Fall Out Boy, and I don’t think they’ve looked back since. FUTCT is their third record, but arguably their biggest.
With two back to back singles for tracks three and four and some of the best lyricism and general songwriting I’ve ever heard, this record is phenomenal. For those uninitiated, start here, go back one, then forwards until Folie à Deux and then just stop.

Favourite track: XO.

Friday:
Bane - Don’t Wait Up

A near perfect hardcore record. I don’t actually know what I’d change about it if given the chance, so I don’t know why it isn’t perfect.
Maybe near perfect just suits this band more.
Don’t let their 27 farewell tours put you off, this band writes great, energetic hardcore music. Poignant too, this record is sad.
Also listen to Antagonize for more music from Bedard.

Favourite track: All The Way Through.

Saturday:
Machine Gun Kelly - Tickets To My Downfall

A weird one, I know. But this honestly sounds like how Blink-182 should sound in 2020. It helps that Travis Barker drums on the entire record, but even without that, it’s really really good. It’s pop punk, in the truest sense of the term as it’s played on popular radio stations but is essentially punk music.

Favourite track: WWIII.

Sunday:
Terror - One With The Underdogs

One of the best to ever do it with my favourite offering of theirs. Unlike with Bane, I believe this to be a perfect hardcore record. I’m not about to spell out what Terror sounds like because if you’re reading this zine, you should know. I
f you’ve only heard their more recent records then I’ll forgive you, but please do yourself a favour and go back to this. It’s 16 years old but has aged incredibly well.

Favourite track: Less Than Zero.

Hello
my name is
FRAZER CASSLING
CAULDRON

LISTENING DIARIES

Day One: No Pressure - No Pressure

When Jack asked me to do this listening diary, I wanted to make sure the released I'd write about were ones that I started listening to naturally, not just releases that I knew I could talk about in an interesting way. Most of my music listening happens around midday and early afternoon where I walk my dog. On the first day, the sun was shining and the weather was really warm so I felt like checking out the No Pressure EP having previously given it a skim. Upon starting the listen, my dog did a huge shit that I had to pick up because a council worker saw me so that put a bit of a downer on the whole thing.

This EP is from a new band with the singer of TSSF on vocals that in all honesty doesn't sound all that different to early TSSF. I always find it strange when members of bands make side projects that aren't that different from their main band but this is still cool.

The songs are short and fast and the EP feels like how pop punk should, like it wouldn't be strange to hear these songs in an American Pie film.

Favourite songs are So You Say and Deal.

Day Two: Misfits - Famous Monsters

I'm not gonna front that I am a Misfits super fan or that I really know much about them at all. I've only ever checked out this record and despite knowing now that Michale Graves is a massive piece of shit, I still love Famous Monsters. If you're like me and grew up on the bands The Misfits inspired, and the bands wearing the Misfits merch, rather than the Misfits themselves then I would urge you to check this record out cause its awesome and its influence is so clear.

Some songs are extremely heavy such as The Crawling Eye whereas most are just really fast with cool lyrics about sci-fi/horror movies and shit. This record does have too many songs, like a few could've been cut such as Living Hell and Hunting Humans, but the majority are great. Honestly had to stop myself from listening to this album everyday instead of 7 different releases.

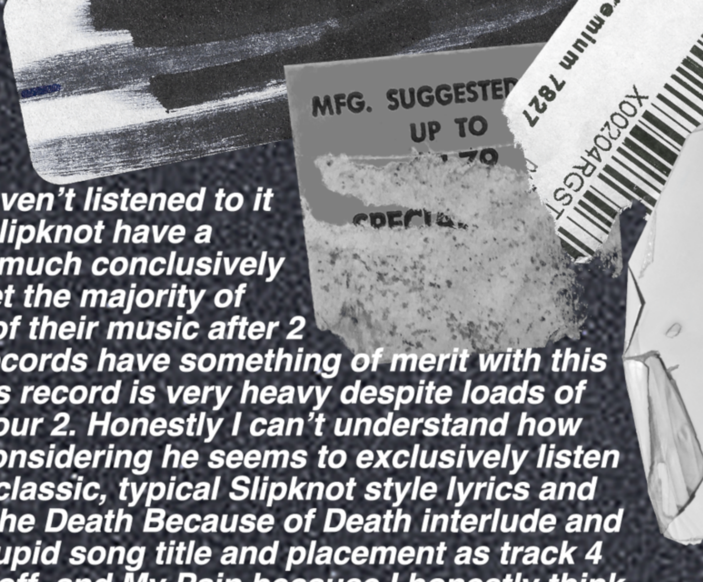
My personal favourite tracks are: Scream, Dust to Dust and Saturday Night.

Day Three: Remembering Never - Women and Children Die First

I first heard this record after starting Cauldron. We'd released our first EP and I needed to give a FFO for our then label to share us around with. I hate giving FFO's because you don't ever want to give one that's inaccurate or self conceited so I asked a friend to think of one for us. One of the bands he gave us was Remembering Never and so I checked them out. This album is a huge blueprint for how I started trying to write Cauldron songs.

It has the perfect mix of melodic parts and mosh parts and it really is metalcore for the hardcore fan as its extremely hard. This record takes the slow down the breakdown rule of mosh and really runs with it and I love it. It does have some flaws, I'm not a fan of the really twiddly crazy guitar parts they sometimes throw in there and I think the guitar tone doesn't hit nearly as hard as it should. Also, on the last track they start adding in these crazy high vocal layers that sound amazing and the fact they're only on the last track is absolutely criminal.

Best songs are For the Love of Fiction, Incisions and Serenading This Dead Horse.



Day Four: Slipknot - We Are Not Your Kind

I really liked this record when it came out but I haven't listened to it since, so I fancied revisiting it. Always find that Slipknot have a really weird fanbase, it's strange that their pretty much conclusively seen as one of the best metal bands of all time yet the majority of people I speak to about them seem to check out of their music after 2 or 3 records. Personally, I think all the Slipknot records have something of merit with this one probably being my favourite since Vol. 3. This record is very heavy despite loads of Slipknot fans complaining they're now a Stone Sour 2. Honestly I can't understand how Corey Taylor can still write vocal parts like this considering he seems to exclusively listen to shit cock rock music but he's still busting out classic, typical Slipknot style lyrics and vocal parts. My main issues with this record are the Death Because of Death interlude and the song My Pain. The interlude because of its stupid song title and placement as track 4 on the record, it just completely throws the pace off, and My Pain because I honestly think that song is unlistenable.

Favourite tracks are: Birth of the Cruel, Nero Forte and Red Flag.

Day Five: Crowbar - Broken Glass:

This is my favourite Crowbar record of the few that I've heard. I love records like this that start with absolutely no bullshit, the first track just comes straight in with no fucking about. Crowbar are the best in the game at fusing genuinely hard music, such as Like Broken Glass which is probably in my top 10 hardest songs ever, with this really unique dark, brooding sound. They showcase this sound really well on the track Nothing which ends with this amazing outro that brings in piano and classical instruments. I love bands that can write songs like this yet also write songs like You Know (I'll Live Again) and Wrath of Time by Judgement which are straight up hardcore songs.

Favourite songs are Conquering, Like Broken Glass and You Know (I'll Live Again).

Day Six: Tom Waits - Blood Money:

"If there's one thing you can say about mankind, there's nothing kind about man".
For those who may not know this record, it's a really interesting listen. It sounds like cabaret music with loads of jazz and blues influence. The songs on this record were actually originally written for a musical that I don't think was ever finished. I've never looked into what the play was about as when I listen to this record, there's a natural imagery that I envision in my head when hearing it and I worry that if I look up the actual story, it'll ruin that. There are songs on this record that are really unnerving and nihilistic such as Misery Is the River of the World in which Waits barks the lyrics in his signature deep, gravely voice that sounds almost like a bad guy in a cartoon is singing. There are also songs that are very nice sounding and soft, such as All the World is Green. I love that this record combines so many different sounds and moods, it really is an adventure listening to it. There are moments that you need to be in the right frame of mind to listen to as they are quite daunting like Calliope or Starving in the Belly of a Whale, like listening to these songs whilst walking my dog were a bit much but overall it is a really fun listen.

Favourite songs are: Coney Island Baby, God's Away on Business and Misery is the River of the World.

Day 7: Absence of Mine - Smile! Aren't You Happy?

Last year I obsessively listed absolutely every hardcore release that came up on my radar to made sure I listened to new music better than I had the years prior. This EP was one those releases and on initial listen, I only lowkey fucked with it. Now like a year later or something, it's fully in my regular hardcore rotation. It's not groundbreaking, you've definitely heard a few bands that follow the same blueprint AOM follows, but they just do it better than most in my opinion.

Best tracks are Funkytowne, Color of Love and CRY!CRY!CRY!

YOU'LL STRUGGLE TO FIND SOMEONE WHO HAS DONE AS MUCH FOR HARDCORE AS PIERRE MENDIVIL. FROM THE ORIGINS OF KNUCKLEDUST IN THE MID 90'S, THROUGH OTHER BANDS SUCH AS BUN DEM OUT, COUNTLESS FEATURES ON FRIEND'S TRACKS, AND OF COURSE RUCKTION RECORDS - WHO I PERSONALLY BELIEVE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT LABEL IN HARDCORE. RUCKTION IS THE PILLAR OF UKHC, AND OUR SCENE WOULD NOT BE WHAT IT IS TODAY WITHOUT THE GROUNDWORK THAT PELBU AND THE OTHER GUYS PUT IN OVER 20 YEARS AGO. I BASICALLY STARTED THIS ZINE SPECIFICALLY SO I COULD ASK PELBU A LOAD OF STUFF, SO DON'T EXPECT ANOTHER ISSUE AFTER THIS...

YO WHAT´S UP PELBU, YOU GOOD? THANKS SO MUCH FOR DOING THIS.

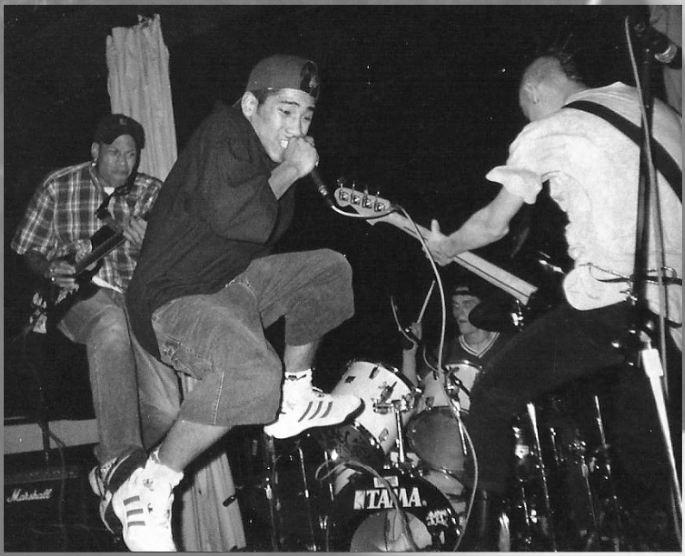
I REALLY CAN'T COMPLAIN BRO, I´M STILL BREATHING, STILL WORKING AND STILL MAKING THIS NOISE WE CALL HARD-CORE.
GIVE THANKS TO YOU FOR ASKING ME TO BE INVOLVED IN YOUR LATEST ENDEAVOUR, IT´S ALWAYS FUN FOR ME TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

FIRST, CAN WE GO RIGHT BACK - WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU BORN? YOU´RE A LONDON GUY 100%, SO WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE CITY?

I WAS BORN IN 1976 SHEEZ JUST SEEING THAT TYPED OUT EVEN LOOKS A LONGTIME AGO NOW. I ENTERED THIS WORLD IN THE WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL IN ARCHWAY BORN TO PERUVIAN IMMIGRANTS WHO BOTH LUCKILY MET AND MARRIED HERE IN LONDON A COUPLE YEARS PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL.
THE THING I LOVE MOST ABOUT THE BIG SMOKE HAS TO BE THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY THE AMAZING MUSIC SCENES AND BANDS THAT PASS THROUGH HERE TO PLAY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. I'M SURE ALOT OF PEOPLE TAKE THAT FOR GRANTED THESE DAYS BUT IN THE PAST WE'VE BEEN VERY LUCKY TO BE ONE OF THE CITY'S IN THE WORLD WHO HAVE ALWAYS HAD EVERY TYPE OF TOURS STOP BY.

WHAT WAS THE FIRST HARDCORE RECORD YOU EVER HEARD? HOW OLD WERE YOU? DID YOU THINK STRAIGHT AWAY "OK I WANNA START A BAND"?

ID HAVE TO SAY IT HAD TO BE SICK OF IT ALL - JUST LOOK AROUND AND BIOHAZARD-URBAN DISCIPLINE, AS FOR MY AGE HMMM MAYBE AROUND 17YEARS OLD.
AT THE TIME THE THOUGHT OF STARTING A BAND DIDN'T EVEN COME INTO MY HEAD AS I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT WHETHER WE HAD A LOCAL SCENE OR NOT AND DIDN'T REALLY KNOW ANYONE ELSE INTO SUCH MUSIC. MY FRIEND'S WEREN'T REALLY INTO HC AND I WOULD GENERALLY GO TO SHOWS ALONE BACK THEN.



KNUCKLEDUST WAS YOUR FIRST BAND, RIGHT? HOW AND WHERE DID THE BAND START?

YES KNUCKLEDUST IS THE FIRST BAND I WAS INVOLVED WITH PROPERLY AND COUNT MY BLESSINGS EVERY SHOW WE PLAYED TO HAVE 3 AMAZING MUSICIANS LET ME DO MY THING OVER THEIR MUSIC.
WE FIRST GOT TOGETHER IN BECKTON EAST LONDON AFTER GUITARIST WEMA CAME ACROSS AN ADVERT I MADE AND STUCK UP IN THE WEST ENDS SELECTADISC RECORD SHOP. HE CALLED ME UP AND INVITED ME TO TRY OUT FOR THEM, SO I MADE MY WAY FROM NEASDEN TO EAST HAM (PRE JUBILEE LINE EXTENSION, IN OTHER WORDS A LONG ASS JOURNEY) AND MET UP WITH RAY, NIC & WEMA.
THEY HAD BEEN DOING BANDS BEFORE AND THEIR LAST ONE (UPHOLD) WAS A MORE HARD-CORE INFLUENCED BAND SO WHEN I HEARD THEM IT DEFINITELY SPARKED MY INTEREST AND INSPIRED MY WRITING WITH THE VIBE THEY WERE CREATING.

WHAT WAS THE HARDCORE SCENE LIKE IN THOSE DAYS? WAS THERE MANY SHOWS ON?

I DON'T RECALL THERE BEING LOADS OF HARDCORE SHOWS BACK THEN, IN FACT IT FELT LIKE MORE FOREIGN BANDS WERE PLAYING AND TOURING THROUGH THAN ANY LOCAL BANDS.
THERE WAS AN OLDER SCENE ABOUT AND I GUESS YOU HAD THE SAME FEW FACES TURN UP TO BIGGER SHOWS BUT ON A LOCAL LEVEL IT KINDA FELT DEAD HERE FOR BANDS PLAYING THAT STYLE WE LOVED OURSELVES.

HAVE YOU GOT ANY FUNNY EARLY KD STORIES?

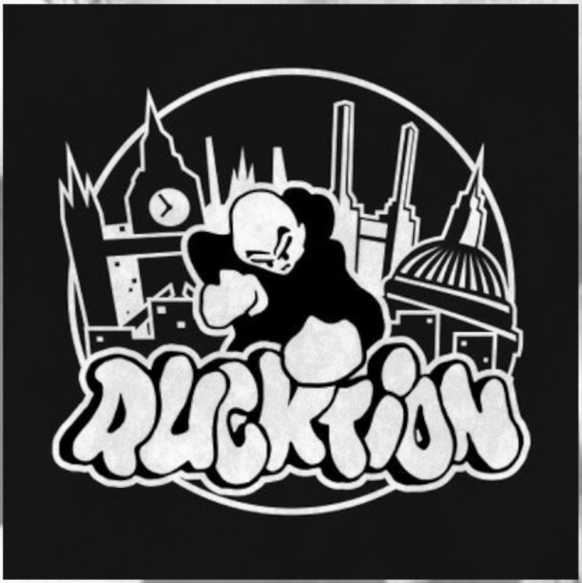
ONE THAT COMES TO MIND IS THE SAGA OF THE KD TOUR VAN.
YEARS AGO WE DECIDED TO INVEST IN A VAN MAINLY COS WE RAN OUT OF HIRE VAN PLACES THAT WE COULD USE DUE TO CONTINUALLY TAKING THEIR VANS OUT THE UK WHEN NOT ALLOWED TO AND NEVER HAVING INSURANCE FOR IT.
SO THE GUYS ENTRUSTED ME TO BUY A 2ND HAND (PRETTY SURE IT MUST HAVE BEEN 6TH HAND) VEHICLE, UNFORTUNATELY FOR US I WAS SWAYED BY THE POWERFUL STEREO SET IN AN OLD RUST BUCKET, IT NEEDED A LITTLE ATTENTION.....BUT WE JUST NEVER GOT ROUND TO IT.
IT HAD A SLIGHT OIL LEAK WHICH MEANT WE NEEDED TO CARRY OIL WITH US WHERE EVER WE WENT, CONSTANTLY KEEPING AN EYE ON THE OIL LIGHT AND KEEP TOPING IT UP EVERY SO OFTEN, WELL AMONGST OTHER ISSUES THAT WAS THE MAIN ONE LOL.
ON ONE TOUR TO GERMANY WE FORGOT TO GET MORE OIL AND JUST RODE OUR LUCK HOPING TO MAKE IT TO THE NEXT SERVICE STATION TO GET MORE BUT UNFORTUNATELY SHE DIDN'T MAKE IT AND ENDED UP STOPPING ON THE MOTORWAY SOMEWHERE ON THE MAINLAND.
WE GOT OUT TO HAVE A LOOK AND WHILE WEMA & NIC HAD THEIR HEAD UNDER THE BONNET RAY DECIDED TO TRY START THE ENGINE AND BOOM THE ENGINE BLOWS UP IN THEIR FACES.
PARTS OF THE ENGINE FLY OUT MISSING THEIR FACES BY INCHES LEAVING A HOLE BIG ENOUGH FOR WEMA'S FOOT TO GO IN AND WE THOUGHT THE VAN WAS GONNA EXPLODE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD LOL SO WE RAN OUT THE WAY COMPLETELY FORGETTING RAY GIRLS WAS ASLEEP IN THE VAN STILL.
LUCKILY THE VAN DIDN'T GO UP IN FLAMES AND WE HAD BREAKDOWN COVER SO ENDED UP GETTING TOWED BACK TO CALAIS, WELL AFTER THE TOW GUY EVENTUALLY REALISED HE WAS DRIVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION FOR HOURS AND TURNED AROUND.
I ENDED UP SELLING IT FOR £50 AFTER ALL THAT AND KEPT THE STEREO.

REVERB
WASSPHOTOGRAPHY...

AT WHAT POINT DID RUCKTION KICK OFF? I THINK IT WAS YOU AND POPI WHO STARTED IT ALL, YEAH? HOW DID YOU GUYS GET SET UP?
RUCKTION WAS A NATURAL PROGRESSION FROM BLACK UP RECORDS WHICH WAS STARTED BY SOME OF THE NINEBAR BOYS AND MYSELF.

RUCKTION LAUNCHED IN 1998 WITH MANCHESTER'S OWN XAREA EFFECTX PUTTING OUT THEIR MCD CALLED STAND STRONG AFTER BLACK UP RECORDS RELEASED THE XAREA EFFECTX /KNUCKLEDUST SPLIT 7", NINEBAR DEMO TAPE.
WE LATER BROUGHT POPI ON BOARD TO HELP RUN DISTRO AND TRADING AS HE HAD A BIT OF EXPERIENCE WITH ALL THAT RUNNING HIS SPECIAL BREW DISTRO.
WE STARTED IT ALL OFF JUGGLING CREDIT CARDS WE MANAGED TO GET HOLD OFF AND GENERAL HUSTLING TO BUILD THE LABEL UP WITH THE TRUST AND SUPPORT OF THE BANDS WE RELEASED AND HELPED OUT.
MOST OF THE FIRST RELEASED CD'S ARE LONG SOLD OUT AND SERVE AS A REMINDER OF OUR PART IN UKHC'S DIY LEGACY AS BETWEEN ALL OF US INVOLVED WE DID EVERYTHING FROM THE ART AND DESIGN, TO PROMO AND DISTRIBUTION FOR FUN.

WHAT WAS THE VERY FIRST RUCKTION RECORDS RELEASE? DO YOU STILL HAVE A COPY?
YES I DO HAVE A COPY OF XAREA EFFECTX MCD AS IT STILL IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITES AND REMINDS ME OF THAT RAW SOUND WE LIVED FOR.



RUCKTION
TIME FOR SOME
RUCKTION

YOU GUYS KEEP IT DIY TO THIS DAY, FOR EXAMPLE RECENTLY I SAW YOU WERE HAND PRINTING THE BANDANAS YOURSELF. DO YOU THINK THAT'S A BIG PART OF WHAT DRAWS PEOPLE TO RUCKTION? IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER EVERYTHING?
THE DIY ETHIC TAUGHT US ALOT AND MADE US WHO WE ARE SO WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF THE HARD-CORE CULTURE WE LOVE, PERSONALLY IT'S NOT SO MUCH ABOUT HAVING COMPLETE CONTROL OVER EVERYTHING BUT MORE ABOUT ENJOYING WHAT WE DO AND LEARNING SOMETHING NEW. IT CAN BE HARD WORK AND TIME CONSUMING SOMETIMES WITH MANY MISTAKES MADE WHILE LEARNING AS WE GO BUT I WOULD STOP AND STEP AWAY FROM HARD-CORE IF IT EVER BECAME JUST A BORING BUSINESS THING.

"THE THING I LOVE MOST ABOUT THE BIG SMOKE HAS TO BE THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY THE AMAZING MUSIC SCENES AND BANDS THAT PASS THROUGH HERE TO PLAY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. "

SOMEONE SHOWED ME THE VIDEO FOR BUN DEM OUT - PERUCHO'S TALE AT COLLEGE JUST AFTER IT CAME OUT, AND THAT WAS MY INTRODUCTION TO RUCKTION RECORDS. I WENT INTO A YOUTUBE DISCOVERY HOLE THAT DAY AND IT CHANGED MY LIFE (YEAH, I KNOW, THAT'S A FUCKING CHEESY LINE). HOW DOES IT FEEL KNOWING THAT RUCKTION HAS HAD AN IMPACT ON ME AND SO MANY OTHERS? DID YOU EXPECT IT TO STILL BE THIS STRONG OVER 20 YEARS LATER?
HEARING THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME NOW ABOUT THE BDO VIDEO MAKES ME FEEL PROUD THAT A BUNCH OF LONDON FUCK UP'S COULD IMPACT ANYONE IN A POSITIVE WAY. WE'VE NEVER HAD ANY MAJOR PLAN OR AIM BESIDES HAVING FUN AND TAKING OUR MINDS OFF THE DAILY STRESSES OF LIFE, AS OLDERS OF OUR CREW WE HAVE GROWN UP IN THIS CULTURE AND LEARNED ALOT FROM HER. IT'S ALWAYS FELT NATURAL TO SHARE THIS KNOWLEDGE TO HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN BANDS AND I CAN SEE NOW THAT THIS MINDSET HAS BUILT VERY STRONG BONDS BETWEEN US ALL AND OTHERS OUTSIDE OF OUR IMMEDIATE CIRCLES.

SO I HONESTLY FEEL BLESSED TO BE INVOLVED IN A SCENE LIKE OURS AND SURROUNDED BY SO MANY GENUINE SINCERE PEOPLE.

PRETTY SURE WE WERE TO BLACK UP AND HAPPY LIVING IN THE MOMENT TO EXPECT ANYTHING FROM THE FUTURE, AND EVEN JUST LIVING THIS LONG HAS BEEN A SURPRISE LOL.

WHEN/HOW/WHY DID BEATDOWN FURY START? WHEN I FIRST HEARD BDF I WAS SURPRISED AT THE AMOUNT OF MELODIC GUITAR LINES, THE SONGS ARE PRETTY DIVERSE. BIG IRATE AND OTHER EARLY METALCORE VIBES. DO YOU HAVE GOOD MEMORIES OF PLAYING IN THAT BAND?
BEATDOWN FURY WAS BORN FROM AN IDEA MY FLATMATE AT THE TIME ANDY GATESHILL AND I HAD, HE KNEW NEVER BEEN BEAT PETE AND WAS LOOKING TO START A MORE METALLIC 2 SINGER TUFF GUY BEATDOWN BAND, SO WE GOT STEVEN HILL AND ALI HUSSAIN INVOLVED AND THINGS WERE SO MUCH FUN THAT IT JUST WORKED OUT.

IT FELT LIKE A COMING TOGETHER OF TWO SCENES TO ME, THE HARDCORE SCENE AND METAL CLUB SCENE WHICH AT THE TIME WAS PERFECT AS BOTH WERE MIXING MORE WITH THE EXPLOSION OF EURO CORE BANDS LIKE ARKANGEL, LENGTH OF TIME AND THE LIKE.

I HAVE ALOT OF GREAT MEMORIES PLAYING WITH THOSE GUYS AND WE STILL REGULARLY COMMUNICATE, AND YES WE WORSHIPED IRATE LOL.

ANDY WOULD PLAY GUITAR CONSTANTLY WHEN WE LIVED TOGETHER WE EVENTUALLY GOT A FLAT ON THE A406 NEAR BRENT CROSS WHICH HAD 6 ROOMS AND FILLED EM WITH MORE HARDCORE MANS IN BANDS, THE ORIGINAL "LBU MANSIONS" WAS BORN AND BECAME A HUB FOR TOURING BANDS TO STAY AND A SAFE CREATIVE PLACE FOR TROUBLED SCENE KIDS TO COME AND CHILL.

RECKON THERE'S ANY CHANCE OF A REUNION AT SOME POINT?
I'D HAVE TO SAY IT'S PRETTY UNLIKELY WE WILL PLAY TOGETHER WITH THIS LINEUP BUT YOU NEVER KNOW, BUN DEM OUT HAS TOYED WITH THE IDEA OF INCORPORATING A FEW BDF HITS INTO OUR SET LIST.

I KNOW THERE ISN'T MUCH CROSSOVER WITH MEMBERS, BUT BUN DEM OUT FEELS LIKE THE NEXT STEP ON FROM BDF, DO YOU PERSONALLY HEAR THAT AT ALL?
I CAN SEE THAT I GUESS, I MEAN I GREW UP LOVING HARDCORE MUSIC BEFORE ALL THE PIGEON HOLES WERE FORCED ON IT, I WOULD LOVE OLD SCHOOL, METALCORE, SXE, BEATDOWN, CROSSOVER, NEW SCHOOL BANDS (EMO, NEW METAL, FLOPPY HAIR AND FASHIONCORE BANDS DON'T DO IT FOR ME) SO KNUCKLEDUST BEING MORE OLD SKOOL/NEW SKOOL MIX I ALWAYS FELT THE NEED TO DO A METALCORE PROJECT WHERE I COULD DO ANYTHING I WANTED ON THE MIC AND EXPERIMENT WITH IDEAS, WHEREAS KNUCKLEDUST HAD ITS FORMULA AND WAY ABOUT DOING THINGS WHICH WAS FINE.

DID YOU SET OUT TO DO SOMETHING HEAVIER WITH BDO FROM THE START, OR WAS IT A PRETTY ORGANIC PROCESS OF LIKE, GET A LOAD OF GUYS IN A STUDIO AND SEE WHAT COMES OUT?
YEAH WE KNEW IT WOULD BE BRUTAL HARDCORE FOR THE DANCE FLOOR JUNKIES COS THAT'S WHAT WE WERE. THE LINEUP OF MEMBERS THAT RECORDED REALLY CLICKED WELL AND THAT FOUNDATION CREATED OUR VIBE WHICH INSPIRED ME TO DO WHAT I DID.

CHUCKING SPANGLISH INTO THE MIX JUST CAME NATURALLY AND ON OUR EARLIER RECORDINGS I WOULD JUST GO INTO CROWS NEST STUDIO WITH AN IDEA AND WING IT BASICALLY. JUST GO WITH THE VIBE AND TRY A FEW DIFFERENT THINGS BUT MAINLY MAKE IT UP AS WENT ALONG.

THERE'S SOME DEATH METAL IN THE BDO MIX, ALONGSIDE SHIT LOADS OF OTHER STUFF. WHAT WAS THE STARTING POINT FOR THAT BAND?
LBU, ARKANGEL, SLAYER, REGGAETON AND DANCEHALL MUSIC 100%

bunDEMout

THERE WAS A FEW YEARS AFTER THE FEW THE DEEP WHERE WE DIDN'T HEAR MUCH FROM BDO, AND NOW YOU'VE RECENTLY COME BACK SWINGIN WITH THE EASY MONEY SPLIT AND THEN TREASON A COUPLE MONTHS AGO. IS THERE PLANS FOR MORE NEW STUFF SOON?

YEA AFTER THE FEW THE DEEP CAME OUT ON ALVERAN RECORDS THEY SOON STOPPED RUNNING AND NOT LONG AFTER I HAD MY DAUGHTER SO DECIDED TO FOCUS MORE ON DAD LIFE, I'VE NEVER FELT ANY PRESSURE TO KEEP DOING A BAND AND WHENEVER I FEEL TO COME BACK TO IT, JUST ALWAYS FEELS LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY WE PLAYED TOGETHER.

I WANTED TO RE-RELEASE THE FULL LENGTH ON RUCKTION RECORDS AND WENT ABOUT RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS BECAUSE I MISSED PLAYING THOSE SONGS, SO AFTER MEETING GUYS AT 12BAR RUCKTION NIGHTS EVERYTHING JUST FELL INTO PLACE AND WE STARTED DOING BITS.

WE HAD PLANNED TO RELEASE NEW SONGS THAT THE MUSIC HAD BEEN RECORDED FOR AND I JUST NEEDED TO VOICE BUT THEN I HAD MY SON AND STEPPED BACK A BIT AS I RELOCATED TO BATH AND THEN THE RECORDINGS GOT LOST.

MORE RECENTLY I'VE HAD MORE TIME TO FOCUS ON NEW BUN DEM OUT MUSIC AND NEEDED IT TO TAKE MY HEAD AWAY FROM BAD TIMES I WAS FACING SO THE SPLIT AND TREASON ARE THE RESULT.

WE HAVE MORE MUSIC WE PLANNED TO RELEASE BY NOW BUT WHAT WITH THE PANDEMIC MADNESS EVERYTHING HAS SLOWED DOWN FOR NOW BUT YOU CAN EXPECT MORE FROM US SOON.

I'VE JUST SEEN A FEW BITS ONLINE FOR NEW PROJECT BORSTAL UKHC, ANYTHING YOU WANNA SHARE ABOUT THAT AT THIS STAGE?

I WAS ASKED IF I WOULD LIKE TO FRONT A NEW BAND BY MY BRO WEZ4 AND LEE KITCHENER FROM DRIPBACK WHO HAD JOINED UP WITH DRUMMER NICK BARKER FROM BRUJERIA/CRADLE OF FILTH. THEY ALL LOVE HARDCORE AND HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN DOING A MORE HARDCORE SOUNDING BAND SO AS LOCKDOWN HAS GIVEN ME MORE SPARE TIME I GLADLY AGREED.

THEY ADDED JAMIE HUNT FROM KING OF PIGS/MORDHAU INTO THE MIX AND WE NOW HAVE BORSTAL UKHC, WE WILL BE GOING INTO MONOLITH STUDIO IN TOTTENHAM THIS WEEK TO RECORD OUR MCD WITH CHARLIE WILSON WHO WAS THE ORIGINAL BUN DEM OUT GUITARIST AND SONG WRITER. WE HAVE 5 SONGS READY PLUS WILL DO A COVER OF LAST RESORTS KING OF THE JUNGLE SO THAT GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF SOME INFLUENCES WE CARRY ADD TO THAT SOME PELBU STYLE SPANGLISH VOX.

WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE GET STUFF OUT AND WITH ANY LUCK BE ABLE TO PLAY SOME SHOWS SOMEWHERE.

COMING SOON...
borstal
FEATURING MEMBERS OF
BRUJERIA, KNUCKLEDUST, DRIPBACK & KING OF PIGS
/BORSTALHC
@BORSTALHC

AND KNUCKLEDUST HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY ROLLING ALONG LIKE A FUCKING TANK THE WHOLE TIME. DO YOU EVER SEE YOURSELF STOPPING, OR EVEN SLOWING DOWN?

KNUCKLEDUST JUST DO THEIR OWN THING GENERALLY AND ITS ALWAYS BEEN FUN TIMES WHEN WE ALL GET TOGETHER SO I DOUBT WE WILL EVER STOP INTENTIONALLY. NEXT YEAR WILL SEE SOME NEW MUSIC FROM US TO MARK OUR 25 ANNIVERSARY, WE PLAN A SHOW AND PARTY TOO ASSUMING WE ARE LEGALLY ALLOWED TOO BY THEN.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY FEATURES YOU'VE DONE ON OTHER PEOPLE'S SONGS AT THIS POINT? IF NOT GIVE IT A GUESS HAHA. ANY PARTICULAR FAVOURITES?

TO BE HONEST I HAVE NO CLUE BUT MY FOLDER OF LYRICS I HAVE WRITTEN FOR FEATURES HAS GOTTEN A BIT OUT OF CONTROL.

I FEEL HUMBLED THAT PEOPLE WOULD ASK ME TO SPIT OVER THEIR MUSIC SO ALWAYS TRY DO IT, PLUS IT'S NICE TO BE INSPIRED BY VIBES OTHER MUSICIANS CREATE, I FEEL I LEARN A LOT BY DOING IT AS THE REALITY IS I HAVEN'T REALLY SPENT THAT MUCH TIME IN THE STUDIO FOR THE BANDS I'M ACTUALLY IN OVER THE NUMEROUS YEARS I'VE BEEN ACTIVE. THINK THE FIRST ONE I DID PROPERLY WAS FOR SENSELESS FROM GREECE WHICH I STILL LOVE, THE COLLAB I DID WITH TITO AND SURGE OF FURY IS A BIG ONE FOR ME AS I LOVE THEM SO MUCH, OBVIOUSLY ANYTIME I GET WITH MY NINEBAR FAMILY MAGIC HAPPENS, THE LIFE BETRAYS US RIDDIM I SPAT ON GOES HARD FOR AN ON THE SPOT LAST MIN THING I JUST WINGED IN TRUE PELBU STYLE AND ONE OF THE MORE RECENT ONES I DID FOR ENEMY MIND I LIKE A LOT.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AGAIN MAN, I COULD'VE CARRIED ON AND ON BUT EVERYONE ELSE WILL GET BORED BEFORE I DO HAHA... IS THERE ANYTHING OR ANYONE YOU WANNA SHOUT OUT, ANY RECOMMENDATIONS ON MUSIC/ARTIST/FILMS ETC?

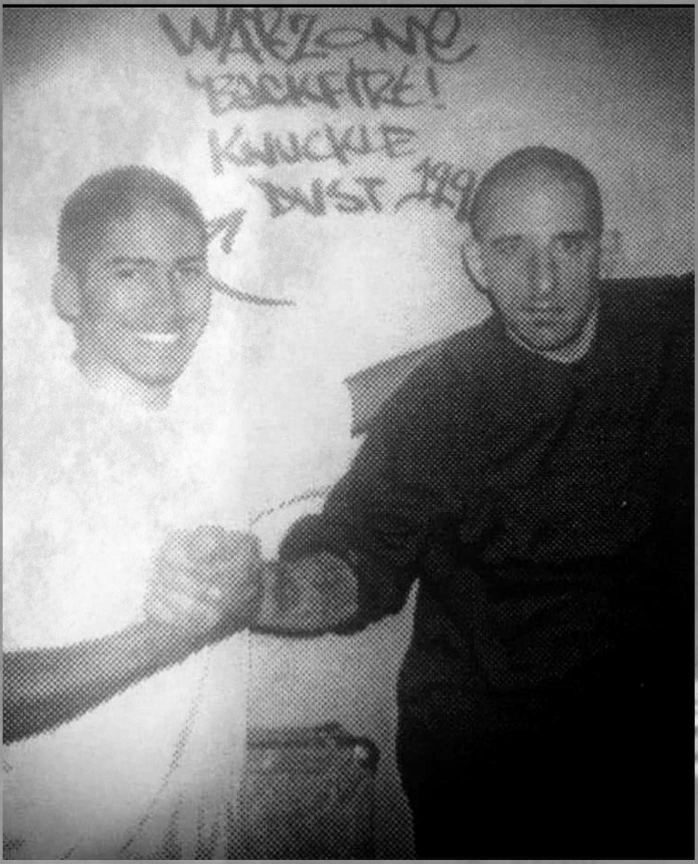
CHECK OUT RUCKTION RECORDS BANDS AN OLD BAND WE DID CALLED MALDITO WHICH WE STILL HAVE PLANS TO RERECORD COS THE DEMO CAME OUT SHIT AFTER THE PRODUCER GOT PISSED WHILE RECORDING US.

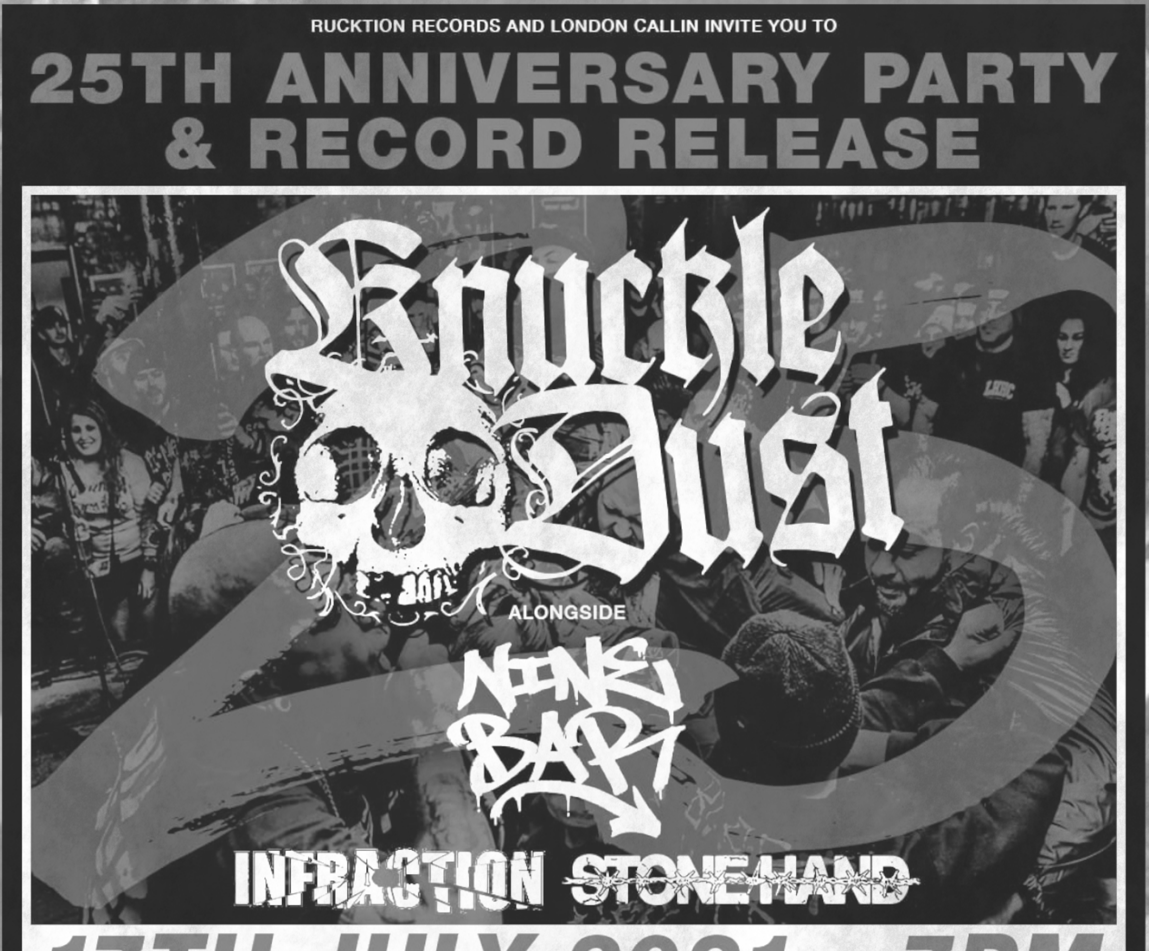
LIVING MOST OF MY LIFE IN NORTH WEST LONDON THEN I'M FULLY INTO SOUNDSYSTEMS AND DANCE HALL MUSIC SO ALOT OF THAT INFLUENCES MY STYLE, LOCAL GUYS LIKE GAPPY RANKS, TUBBY T (RIP) AND CHUKKIE STARR AMONGST OTHERS REALLY LEFT A BIG IMPRESSION ON ME GROWING UP AND I TRY NEVER MISS NOTTINGHAM CARNIVAL.

WE HAVE SOME SICK ARTISTS AND TATTOOISTS IN OUR CREWS TOO, I'M ALWAYS SHARING THEIR POSTS ON INSTAGRAM SO FEEL FREE TO LOOK DEEPER. FILMS WISE I AIN'T REALLY INTO WATCHING TV IF I'M HONEST, SHORT ATTENTION SPAN AND ALL THAT PLUS I AIN'T GREAT AT SITTING STILL FOR LONG, I'M HAPPIEST DRAWING LOADS LEARNING GRAFF WHICH I'VE BEEN DOING ALOT OF OVER THE LAST YEAR AND IT HAS HELPED ME KEEP MY SANITY BY LETTING ME TAKE MY FOCUS AWAY FROM THE NEGATIVES I'VE BEEN FACING OF LATE.

TO FINISH I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE THIS MUSIC SCENE WERE INVOLVED IN, IT HAS HELPED ME COPE WITH SOME OF THE WORST TIMES IN MY LIFE AND I TRY GIVE BACK TO IT ANYWAY I CAN. IT REALLY HURTS ME TO HEAR SO MANY IN OUR SCENE TAKE THEIR LIVES, SELF HARM OR BULLY OTHERS AND I HAVE SEEN SO MANY TROUBLED YOUTHS COME THROUGH OUR RANKS OVER THE YEARS. PLEASE UNDERSTAND YOU'RE NEVER ALONE, WITH ALL THE NEGATIVES WE CONSTANTLY HEAR ABOUT, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SO MANY POSITIVES THAT DON'T GET AS MUCH ATTENTION, KIDS WHO HAVE TURNED THEIR LIVES AROUND WITH A TRUE HARDCORE ATTITUDE AND HARD WORK. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE AND IF ANYONE READING THIS EVER FEELS HOPELESSNESS PLEASE REACH OUT, I WON'T PRETEND TO HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS BUT THE VERY LEAST I CAN OFFER IS AN EAR. HARDCORE PEOPLE PLEASE SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND TRY RESPECT EACH OTHER.

AS A WISE MAN ONCE SAID, *"DON'T FORGET THE STRUGGLE, DON'T FORGET THE STREETS, DON'T SELL OUT".*





RUCKTION RECORDS AND LONDON CALLIN INVITE YOU TO

25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY
& RECORD RELEASE

KNUCKLE DUST

ALONGSIDE

NINE BAR

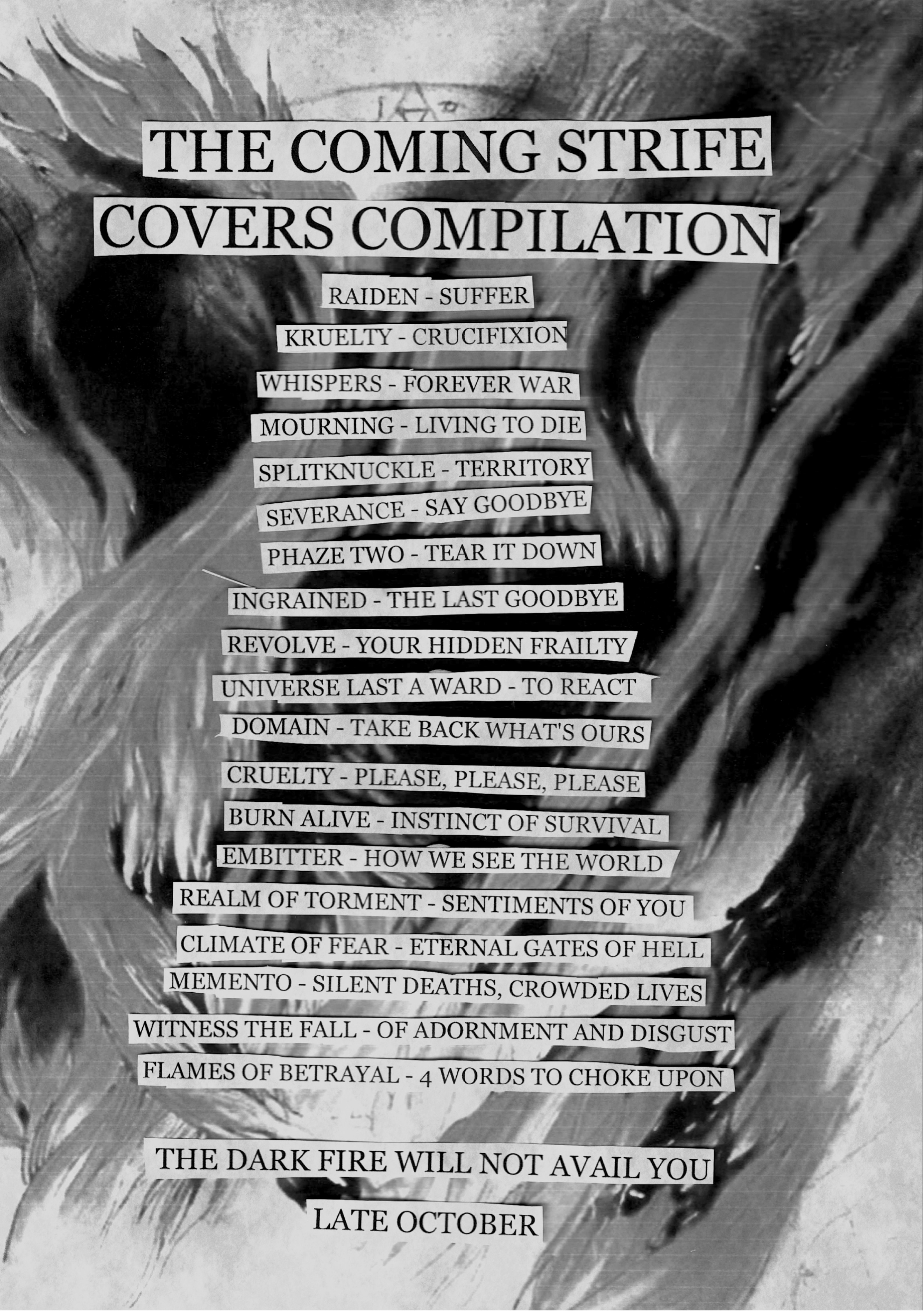
INFRACTION STONEHAND

17TH JULY 2021 - 7PM

100 CLUB LONDON

100 OXFORD ST, LONDON, W1D 1LL
EARLY BIRD TICKETS £12.00 UNTIL DEC 31ST 2020

PHOTOS BY @AGAHAIRESIS, @CALLXMEXKILLER, @MATOUXN, WASS PHOTOGRAPHY

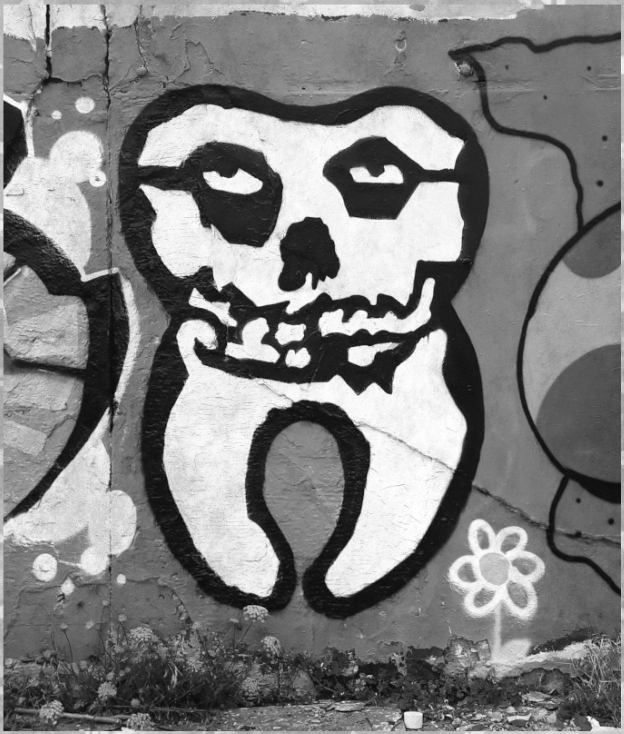


THE COMING STRIFE
COVERS COMPILATION

RAIDEN - SUFFER
KRUELTY - CRUCIFIXION
WHISPERS - FOREVER WAR
MOURNING - LIVING TO DIE
SPLITKNUCKLE - TERRITORY
SEVERANCE - SAY GOODBYE
PHAZE TWO - TEAR IT DOWN
INGRAINED - THE LAST GOODBYE
REVOLVE - YOUR HIDDEN FRAILTY
UNIVERSE LAST A WARD - TO REACT
DOMAIN - TAKE BACK WHAT'S OURS
CRUELTY - PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE
BURN ALIVE - INSTINCT OF SURVIVAL
EMBITTER - HOW WE SEE THE WORLD
REALM OF TORMENT - SENTIMENTS OF YOU
CLIMATE OF FEAR - ETERNAL GATES OF HELL
MEMENTO - SILENT DEATHS, CROWDED LIVES
WITNESS THE FALL - OF ADORNMENT AND DISGUST
FLAMES OF BETRAYAL - 4 WORDS TO CHOKE UPON

THE DARK FIRE WILL NOT AVAIL YOU

LATE OCTOBER



EVER WONDERED WHY THERE ARE SO MANY CRAZY TOOTH ILLUSTRATIONS AROUND BRIGHTON? MY GUY MOLAR HAS BEEN PAINTING AND CREATING FOR YEARS, AND THE TEETH HAVE BECOME HIS "TRADEMARK". BLESS UP @MOLAR.ART FOR THIS ISSUE'S COVER ILLUSTRATION AND THE STICKERS!

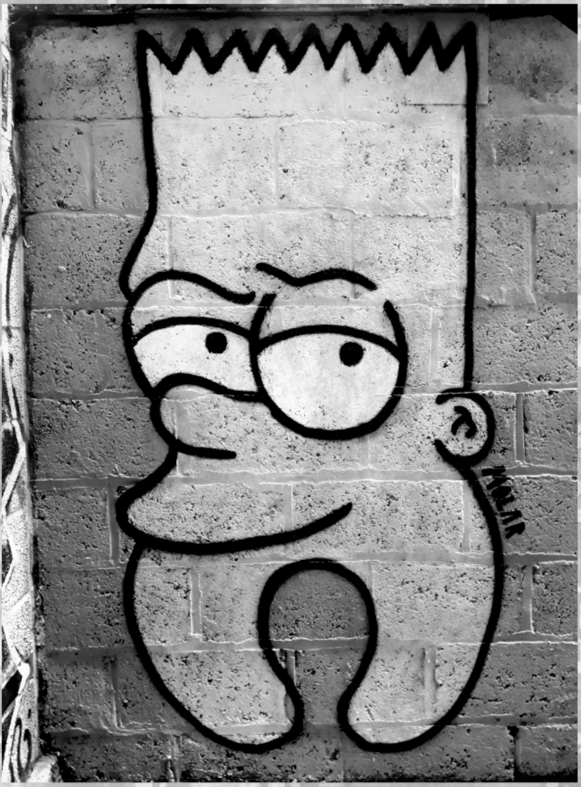
HEY MOLAR! WHAT’S UP?
HEY DUDE! NOT MUCH, JUST OUT HERE TRYING TO SURVIVE.

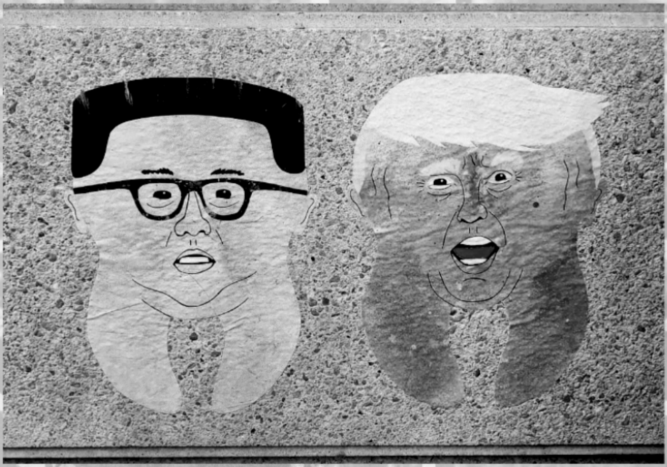
I THINK THE FIRST QUESTION HAS TO BE - WHAT’S WITH ALL THE TEETH?!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN ANATOMY. BUT SOME DICKHEAD DECIDED TO ATTACK ME WITH A JACK DANIELS BOTTLE WHICH FUCKED UP MY FRONT TEETH. THE AFTERMATH WAS PRETTY SHITTY SO ITS MY WAY OF TURNING A NEGATIVE IN TO A POSITIVE.

THERE’S A LOT OF PUNK AND HARDCORE IMAGERY WITHIN YOUR ART, IS THAT A BIG PART OF YOUR LIFE?
HELL YEAH! I LOVE THE ENERGY AND THE COMMUNITY THAT COMES WITH IT. I'VE BEEN CRAVING A SHOW OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS!

YOU OFTEN INCORPORATE POP CULTURE INTO YOUR PIECES TOO, WHAT’S YOUR FAVOURITE CARTOON?
I'M A SIMPSONS LOVER! A LOT OF PEOPLE IN MY GENERATION SEEM TO BE ASWELL BUT I WATCHED IT EVERYDAY FOR HOWEVER MANY YEARS!

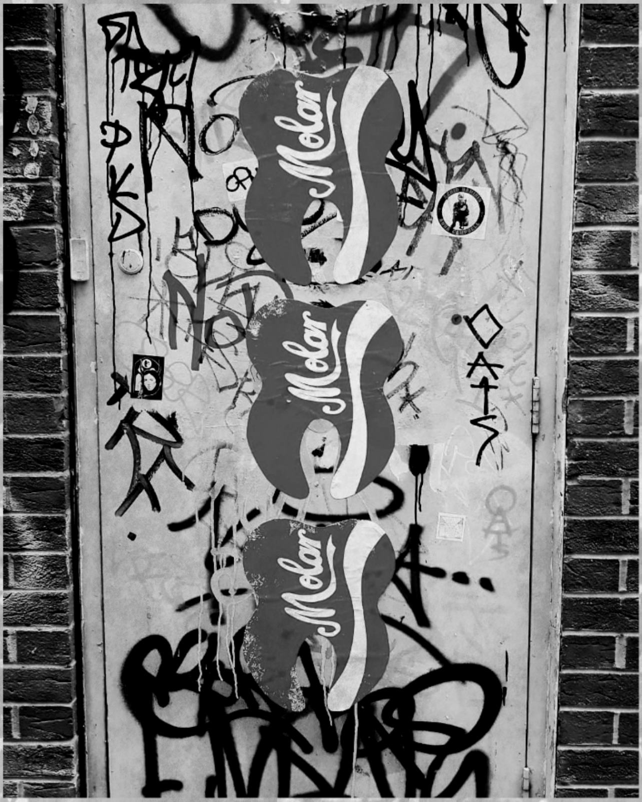
YOU’RE NOT A ‟ONE TRICK PONY” BY ANY MEANS THOUGH, TELL ME ABOUT SOME OTHER PIECES AND PROJECTS THAT YOU’VE DONE?
I'VE WORKED ON ALL SORTS TO BE FAIR. I'VE WORKED WITH BANDS AND PROMOTERS. PLENTY OF DESIGN WORK FOR LOCAL COMPANIES AND FESTIVALS. I'M BASICALLY UP FOR ANY CREATIVE/DESIGN PROJECT BUT I WILL ALWAYS LOVE ILLUSTRATION AND PAINTING.





DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST HARDCORE RECORD YOU EVER HEARD? AND THE FIRST SHOW YOU WENT TO?
MY FIRST FAVOURITE HARDCORE/PUNK BAND MUST'VE BEEN MINOR THREAT. THOSE GUYS KILLED IT AND MADE SUCH A DIFFERENCE!

STREET-ART HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN USED TO MAKE A POLITICAL OR SOCIAL STATEMENT. DO YOU THINK ART CAN BE THOUGHT-PROVOKING ENOUGH TO GENUINELY CHANGE PEOPLE’S WAY OF THINKING? I’M SURE YOU GUESSED, BUT THIS QUESTION WAS INSPIRED BY YOUR INCREDIBLE TRUMP-TOOTH!
ABSOLUTELY! I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT OTHERWISE PEOPLE JUST GET TRAPPED IN THEIR BORING DAY TO DAY ROUTINE CHALLENGING NOTHING, BEING MANIPULATED BY THE MEDIA. MOST POLITICIANS PISS ME OFF AND MAKING UNFLATTERING IMAGES OF THEM IS MY WAY OF REMINDING PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE ONLY HUMAN AND ARE AS VULNERABLE AS ANYONE ELSE.

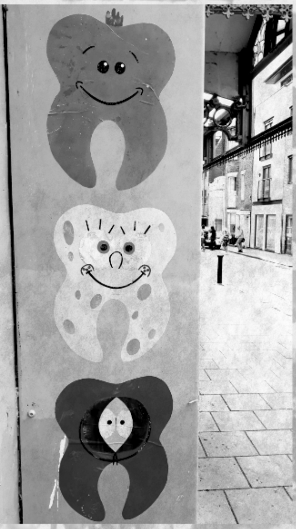


HEAD TO MOLAR'S BIGCARTEL STORE TO PICK UP THE GOOD GOOD

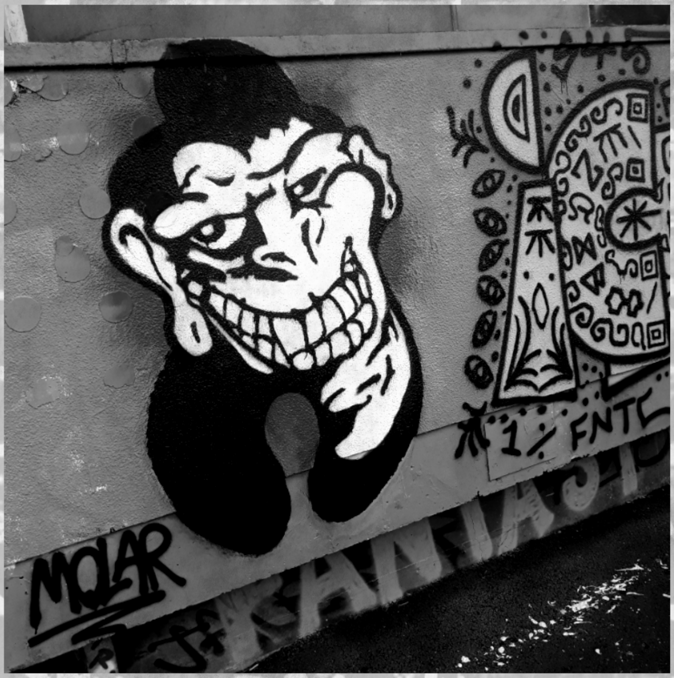
DO YOU THINK THERE'S A LINK BETWEEN STREET-ART AND HARDCORE?
FOR SURE. STREET ART IS A WAY FOR LOTS OF ARTISTS TO GET THEIR VOICE HEARD IN A WORLD WHERE THE MASSES TRY TO SHUT YOU DOWN. HARDCORE BANDS CAN USE THEIR PLATFORM THE SAME WAY.

WE'VE ALL SEEN SHIT TAGS ON RAILWAYS, BUT THERE'S ALSO SOME INCREDIBLE STREET-ART. WHAT SORT OF THINGS DO YOU FIND INTERESTING?
I PERSONALLY LIKE WORK THAT STANDS OUT AGAINST A LOT OF THE TRADITIONAL LETTERS AND MURALS YOU SEE (EVEN THOUGH THAT'S STILL AWESOME) ANYTHING WITH COOL TEXTURES, NEW TECHNIQUES. I'M ALSO A HUGE STICKER NERD SO I APPRECIATE ALL THE STICKERS PEOPLE PUT EVERYWHERE!

HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON ANYTHING COOL RECENTLY? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING BIG LINED UP?
I'VE GOT AN EXHIBITION WITH THE FRIENDLY GANG IN BRIGHTON SOON, COVID DELAYED IT UNFORTUNATELY.
I'M ALSO HELPING MY MATE @_STUCKK PHOTOGRAPHY PUT TOGETHER A ZINE OF HIS 35MM PHOTOS FROM GIGS OVER THE PAST YEAR SO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THAT!



LOVE CLAPTON
HATE FASCISM
30



> *"MOST POLITICIANS PISS ME OFF AND MAKING UNFLATTERING IMAGES OF THEM IS MY WAY OF REMINDING PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE ONLY HUMAN AND ARE AS VULNERABLE AS ANYONE ELSE."*

YOU HAVE MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE RIGHT? IS THERE A LINK? ALSO, HOW CAN PEOPLE GET IN TOUCH FOR COMMISSIONS?
WWW.MOLAR.BIGCARTEL.COM AND PEOPLE CAN DM ME ON INSTAGRAM @MOLAR.ART

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME! ANY SHOUT-OUTS? ANY ARTISTS OR BANDS YOU'VE BEEN DIGGING RECENTLY? EKULU, CHUBBY AND THE GANG AND THAT NEW YOTK RECORD. SHOUT OUT TO BRIGHTON AND COVENTRY HEADS.

ALL PHOTOS BY @MOLAR.ART

vanguard.
NEW AGE RECORDS

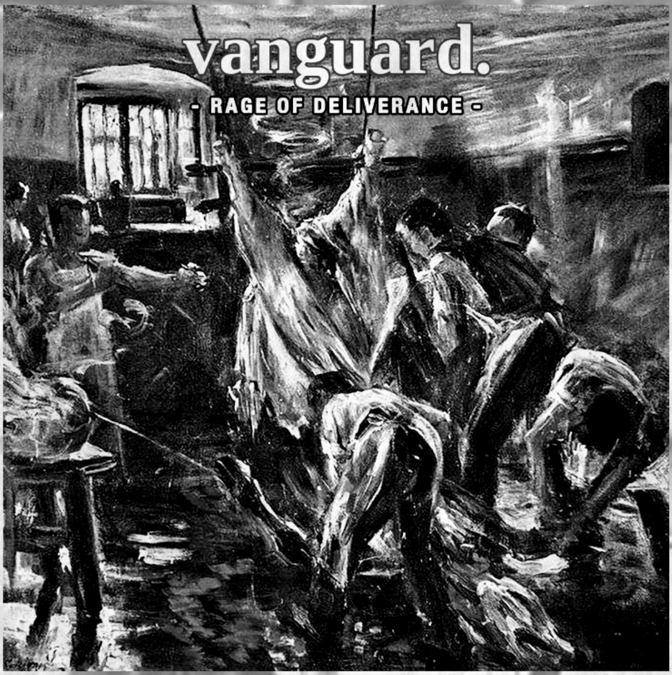
HEY FLINT, WHAT'S UP! HOW YOU DOING?
YO! HEY MAN, GOT A LOT GOING ON IN MY WORLD RIGHT NOW, WITH BOTH THE VANGUARD AND LIFE FORCE LP'S DROPPING, MY FULL TIME JOB, AND TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH EVERYTHING ALL AT THE SAME TIME, PRETTY CHAOTIC. BUT A GOOD TYPE OF CHAOS!

I KNOW YOU'RE IN OTHER BANDS, BUT VANGUARD APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE AT THE START OF AUGUST. HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON THE SONGS FOR A WHILE?
HONESTLY, IT SORT OF FEELS LIKE VANGUARD CAME OUT OF NOWHERE FOR US TOO, ALBEIT A LITTLE EARLIER THAN AUGUST. IN FEBRUARY 2020 MY GOOD FRIEND JOSH (GUITARIST AND MUSICAL MASTERMIND IN VANGUARD) ACTUALLY JOINED OUR OTHER BAND, LIFE FORCE, ON SECOND GUITAR; AND WHILE WE WERE DRIVING TO DINNER ONE NIGHT IN EARLY MARCH HE PUT ON THE SCRATCH DEMO VERSIONS OF A FEW OF THE SONGS THAT WOULD BECOME VANGUARD AND ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT OF THEM. I WAS BLOWN AWAY, AND SINCE THE MATERIAL IS SO STYLISTICALLY DIFFERENT THAN LIFE FORCE, THAT WAS WHEN THE IDEA FOR VANGUARD AS ITS OWN STAND-ALONE PROJECT WAS BORN. WE FULLY WROTE AND PLANNED EVERYTHING OUT OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, RECRUITING REICE ON DRUMS AND DAVIS ON BASS, AND THEN RECORDED ALL THE TRACKS OURSELVES (JOSH BEING THE "PRODUCER" AS WELL) IN EARLY MAY. SO FROM NOT EXISTING TO HAVING A FULLY WRITTEN AND RECORDED EP IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS TIME, IT WAS A DAMN WHIRLWIND.

vanguard.

WAS THERE A DRIVING INFLUENCE FOR VANGUARD'S FORMATION, BESIDES THE OBVIOUS WANTING TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT ANIMAL CRUELTY?
WELL, WE'VE ALL LOVED THE STYLE OF METALLIC HARDCORE FROM DECADES PAST, NAMELY BANDS LIKE MERAUDER, EARTH CRISIS, AND ONE KING DOWN, AND WE'VE ALL WANTED TO BE PART OF A PROJECT THAT FALLS WITHIN THAT VEIN. WITH JOSH HAVING DONE THE HEAVY LIFTING OF THE INITIAL SONGWRITING, AND ME ALWAYS HAVING A LOT TO SAY ABOUT MY VARIOUS BELIEF SYSTEMS (PROBABLY TOO MUCH TO SAY, IF YOU ASK SOME OF THE PEOPLE I KNOW HAHAHA), THE PIECES JUST SORT OF FELL IN PLACE AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE QUARANTINE FREE TIME. ADDED TO THE FACT THAT I HAVE A VERY SPECIFIC RANGE OF TOPICS THAT I LIKE TO STICK TO, LYRICALLY, WHEN WRITING FOR LIFE FORCE, VANGUARD GIVES ME AN OUTLET FOR SUBJECTS THAT MAY FALL A BIT OUTSIDE OF THOSE SUBJECTS. THINGS THAT STILL WARRANT DISCUSSING AND SAYING, THAT MAYBE DIDN'T FIT WITH THE OVERALL VIBE OF LF. I THINK THAT'S THE REASON THAT THREE OF US CAN BE IN BOTH BANDS, AND WHY NEW AGE RECORDS WAS WILLING TO SIGN BOTH BANDS, THEY DON'T REALLY STEP ON ONE ANOTHER'S TOES TOO MUCH AND CAN COEXIST IN HARMONY.

"DIRECT ACTION IS A NOBLE AND NECESSARY PRACTICE, BUT SO IS SELF-EXAMINATION WHEN AND WHERE IT'S POSSIBLE AND REALISTIC, AND THE TRUTH IS THAT FOR MOST OF US IT IS VERY POSSIBLE AND VERY REALISTIC."



DID YOU GO INTO A STUDIO WITH RAGE OF DELIVERANCE ALREADY WRITTEN, OR WAS IT MORE OF A STUDIO PROJECT?
WELL, IF BY STUDIO YOU MEAN JOSH'S BEDROOM AND MY HOME OFFICE, THEN YES. HAHAHA. JOSH HAD ALREADY WRITTEN THE MUSIC ITSELF, AND RECORDINGS FOR THE INSTRUMENTS WERE ALREADY UNDERWAY WHEN I WAS STILL FINISHING UP MY LYRICS FOR THE EP. UNLIKE MY PAST PROJECTS, I ACTUALLY "TAILOR MADE" LYRICS TO FIT THE VANGUARD SONGS, AS OPPOSED TO FLIPPING THROUGH MY NOTEBOOKS OF PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN MATERIAL AND PICKING SOMETHING THAT FITS.

WHAT'S YOUR PROCESS WITH WRITING LYRICS? HOW DO YOU APPROACH IT?
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, VANGUARD HAS BEEN A VERY DIFFERENT APPROACH FOR ME, COMPARED TO WHAT I'VE DONE AS A VOCALIST IN OTHER PROJECTS. I SAT DOWN WITH A GENERAL "CONCEPT" FOR WHAT I WOULD WANT EACH SONG TO BE ABOUT, AND I WOULD LOOP THE MUSICAL PORTION OF THE TRACK OVER AND OVER WHILE I SAT AT MY DESK AND HASHED OUT EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO SAY. BASICALLY, IN A NUTSHELL, I WILL JUST WORD VOMIT ALL OF MY RAGE FILLED MUSINGS IN A "STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS" TYPE WAY, BASICALLY A BIG PARAGRAPH OF ME RANTING, THEN I'LL DISSECT THAT AND DISTIL IT DOWN INTO A MORE REASONABLE, WORKABLE FORM, THAT CAN BE FULLY A PART OF THE MUSIC, AS OPPOSED TO JUST SOMETHING I WROTE ALREADY THAT I'M SINGING ON TOP OF IT. I'M SUPER PROUD OF HOW THEY CAME OUT.

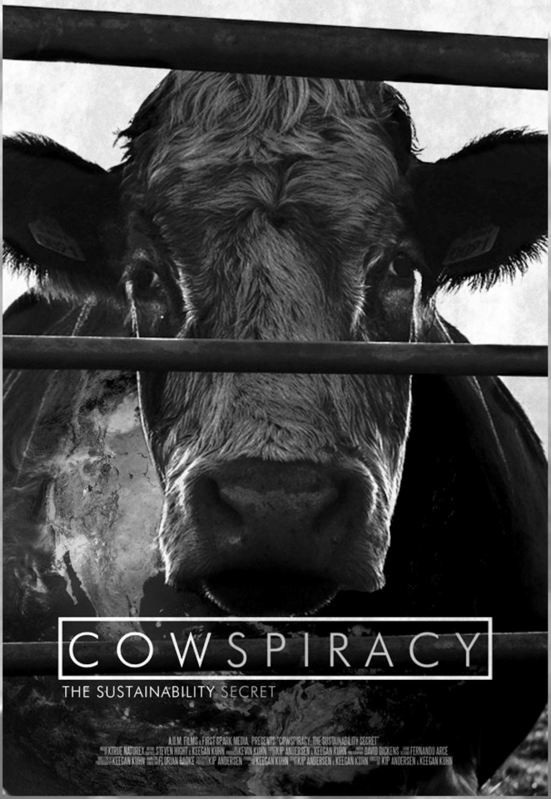
GO VEGAN

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE BANDS' SOUND?
WHENEVER PEOPLE ASK WHAT WE SOUND LIKE, I ALWAYS AVOID DOING THE WHOLE "FOR FANS OF" THING, I THINK IT'S SORT OF LAZY AND ULTIMATELY WE HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT INFLUENCES FROM ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF HEAVY MUSIC THAT IT REALLY DOESN'T EFFECTIVELY CAPTURE OUR SOUND, IN MY OPINION. MY GO TO DESCRIPTION IS ALWAYS SOMETHING LIKE "METALLIC HARDCORE, WITH INFLUENCE FROM THAT CLASSIC 90'S SOUND PEPPERED WITH OUR OWN MODERN TOUCH". IT SORT OF SOUNDS CORNY WHEN I HEAR MYSELF SAY IT, BUT IS THERE A WAY TO DESCRIBE YOUR OWN BAND'S SOUND THAT ISN'T A LITTLE CORNY?

OBVIOUSLY WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SHOWS YET, BUT ARE YOU PLANNING TO GET OUT ON THE ROAD AS SOON AS YOU'RE ABLE TO?
ABSOLUTELY, WE ACTUALLY HAVE SOME REALLY AWESOME OFFERS AND NEWS THAT WE'RE PLAYING PRETTY CLOSE TO THE VEST RIGHT NOW, BUT WE'LL DROP THE INFO AS SOON AS WE'RE ABLE TO DO SO. SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!

WHAT DOES STRAIGHTEDGE MEAN TO YOU? WHEN DID YOU CLAIM?
TO ME, STRAIGHT EDGE IS A LIFESTYLE CHOICE THAT ENABLES THOSE OF US THAT ADHERE TO IT TO KEEP A SOUND, HEALTHY MIND AND BODY. IT'S A PERSONAL CHOICE THAT, IF DONE CORRECTLY, CAN OPEN YOUR EYES TO A WHOLE PLETHORA OF OTHER RADICAL WAYS OF THINKING THAT ARE COUNTER TO SOCIAL AND MORAL NORMS. I HATE WHEN I SEE KIDS THAT CLAIM EDGE AND STOP THERE, LIKE MAN YOU'RE ONLY JUST AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN, THERE'S A WHOLE CLIMB AHEAD OF YOU IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TAKE IT. WITHOUT STRAIGHT EDGE I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO VEGANISM, WITHOUT VEGANISM I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO RADICAL POLITICS AND LEFTISM, AND WITHOUT THOSE THINGS I WOULDN'T EVEN REMOTELY BE WHO I AM TODAY. IT IS INDEED A LIFE CHANGING CHOICE, BUT NOT SOLELY BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT OUT DRINKING KEYSTONE WITH YOUR BUDS IN HIGHSCHOOL, BUT RATHER BECAUSE IT CAN GIVE YOU THE CLARITY OF MIND AND PURPOSE TO FURTHER EXPLORE OTHER CHOICES AND IDEOLOGIES THAT AREN'T JUST PERSONAL, THAT CAN BETTER THE WHOLE WORLD, AS OPPOSED TO JUST BETTERING OURSELVES.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE MOMENT THAT YOU THOUGHT "OK, I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF ANIMAL EXPLOITATION"? WAS THERE A SPECIFIC DOCUMENTARY/ BAND/ETC. THAT OPENED YOUR EYES? I WATCHED COWSPIRACY AND READ JJ'S "MEAT IS FOR PUSSIES" ON A SINGLE FLIGHT AND HAD MADE MY MIND UP BEFORE THE PLANE LANDED.
FOR ME, IT WAS A GRADUAL SORT OF ASCENDANCE TO SEEING THE LIGHT THAT IS BEING VEGAN FOR THE ANIMALS. FIRST I WAS ONE OF THOSE PUNISHING "ANTI-VEGAN" TYPES, LIVING IN MIDDLE AMERICA, AND VERY COMFORTABLE CONSUMING WHATEVER I WANTED WHENEVER I WANTED. I WOULD EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO SAY "NAH, I COULD NEVER BE A VEGAN, I BELIEVE IN ATTAINABLE GOALS", AND OTHER TOO-COOL-FOR-SCHOOL FUCKERY. MOSTLY, ADMITTEDLY, BECAUSE THERE WAS A SQUAD OF LOCAL XVX FOLKS THAT WOULD TALK TO ME ABOUT IT ON A REGULAR BASIS (WE WOULD MEET UP WEEKLY FOR FOOD NOT BOMBS COOKING AND FEEDS, ALWAYS A FULLY VEGAN MENU), AND WHEN THEY BROUGHT UP POINTS THAT MADE ME UNCOMFORTABLE WITH MY CHOICES AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T LIKE THAT. THE COGNITIVE DISSONANCE WAS STRONG, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO CONFRONT IT AT ALL. THEN, WHEN I STARTED WANTING TO IMPROVE MY OWN HEALTH AND PHYSIQUE, I RAN INTO A FRIEND THAT HAD LOST A TON OF WEIGHT IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME, AND WHEN I ASKED HIM HOW HE'D DONE SO, HE TOLD ME HE WENT VEGAN. SO, IN MY LITTLE SELFISH BRAIN, I THOUGHT "WELL SHIT, IF I CAN LOSE WEIGHT AND LOOK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER ABOUT ME, MAYBE I SHOULD LOOK INTO THIS". AND YET, EVEN THEN, I COULDN'T COMMIT, SO I WENT VEGETARIAN FOR ABOUT A YEAR. AS MY ONE YEAR VEGETARIAN ANNIVERSARY WAS GETTING CLOSE, ONE DAY I WAS IN MY CAR AND PULLING INTO THE DRIVEWAY OF THE HOUSE THAT I SHARED WITH FOUR OTHER PUNKS FROM THE LOCAL SCENE, AND A SONG CAME ON THAT I'D HEARD TONS OF TIMES BEFORE, SEVEN GENERATIONS' "RITUAL". FOR WHATEVER REASON, THE LYRICS STRUCK ME ON THAT DAY, AND AT THAT MOMENT I SAID TO MYSELF "GOD DAMN. THAT'S IT. NO MORE." AND I'VE NEVER LOOKED BACK. THAT WAS A LITTLE OVER EIGHT YEARS AGO NOW, AND I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY I'M HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER THAN I'VE EVER BEEN, AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF I KNOW I'M NOT CONTRIBUTING TO THE "COLD CALLOUS THOUGHTLESS CONTINUATION OF A VICIOUS RITUAL OF BLOODLUST". (SHOUT OUT TO 7GEN AND TO CHRIS IN PARTICULAR, THANKS FOR WRITING LYRICS THAT MADE ME MAKE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION OF MY LIFE)



ANIMAL
LIBERATION
FRONT

DO YOU SUPPORT THE IDEA THAT AGGRESSIVE ACTION NEEDS TO BE TAKEN TO SAVE THE PLANET?

YES. THAT BEING SAID, I THINK THE BATTLE NEEDS TO HAVE MANY FRONTS TO SUCCEED. DRASTIC MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN TO FORCE OPEN THE EYES OF THE WILFULLY BLIND, BUT ALSO VERY SMALL MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN BY EACH AND EVERY HUMAN THAT IS CAPABLE OF DOING SO IN ORDER TO RE-EXAMINE THEIR OWN DAILY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION, EXPLOITATION, AND POLLUTION THAT WE ALL KNOWINGLY AND UNKNOWINGLY CHIP IN TO. DIRECT ACTION IS A NOBLE AND NECESSARY PRACTICE, BUT SO IS SELF-EXAMINATION WHEN AND WHERE IT'S POSSIBLE AND REALISTIC, AND THE TRUTH IS THAT FOR MOST OF US IT IS VERY POSSIBLE AND VERY REALISTIC. SYSTEMIC CHANGE IS THE ONLY SOLUTION, AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE HAS TO BE INTERSECTIONAL TO DISMANTLE ALL OF THOSE SYSTEMS IF OUR PLANET AND ALL OF THE SPECIES ON IT ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE AT TRUE AND LASTING HARMONY.

DO YOU THINK WE HAVE A CHANCE OR DO YOU THINK THE DAMAGE WE'VE ALREADY DONE IS IRREVERSIBLE?

I THINK WE HAVE A CHANCE, AND I THINK THE EARTH IS VERY CAPABLE OF HEALING IN WAYS THAT WE STILL DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND. A PERFECT EXAMPLE (UNDERSTAND, I LIVE IN HOUSTON, TX) IS THE MASSIVE OIL SPILL THAT HAPPENED THANKS TO THE NEGLIGENCE AND MIS-OPERATION OF AN OFFSHORE BP RIG IN THE GULF OF MEXICO, THE DEEPWATER HORIZON DISASTER, BACK IN 2010. GARGANTUAN VOLUMES OF OIL WERE SPILLED INTO THE SEA, AND THERE WERE SCIENTISTS SAYING THAT THE CLEANUP EFFORTS AND LASTING EFFECTS WOULD LAST FOR DECADES, AND RIGHTFULLY SO, BECAUSE AT THE TIME THAT'S WHAT THE SCIENCE WAS TELLING THEM AND BASED AROUND KNOWN CLEAN-UP METHODS, THAT WAS A REASONABLE ESTIMATE. HOWEVER, HERE WE ARE BARELY TEN YEARS LATER AND THERE ISN'T EVEN A SIGN THAT IT HAPPENED. WHAT THE SCIENTISTS DIDN'T COUNT ON WAS A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF MICROORGANISMS LIVING IN THE SEA WATER THAT ACTUALLY FED ON THE HYDROCARBONS THAT WERE POLLUTING THE WATERS. AND WE'RE NOT TALKING A SMALL AMOUNT, WE'RE TALKING MORE THAN HALF OF THE *TWO HUNDRED MILLION GALLONS* OF CRUDE OIL WAS CONSUMED BY THESE MICROBES THAT WERE ONLY EVEN DISCOVERED AND UNDERSTOOD YEARS AFTER THE FACT. IT'S A NICHE EXAMPLE, BUT I THINK IT'S A BEAUTIFUL ALLEGORY FOR WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ON A GLOBAL SCALE, THE PLANET CAN HEAL IF ONLY WE COULD GIVE IT THE CHANCE TO DO SO, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE WINDOW FOR THAT CHANCE TO OCCUR IS SHRINKING MORE AND MORE. THE LONGER THAT CAPITALIST INTERESTS SUPERCEDE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF LIFE ON THIS PLANET, THE LESSER TIME WE HAVE. TO CONCEPTUALIZE THAT, JUST ONE HUNDRED COMPANIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MORE THAN 70% OF THE POLLUTION IN THE WORLD. BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF PEOPLE, AND 100 CORPORATIONS ARE TO BLAME FOR SEVENTY PERCENT. BECAUSE THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM, AND WEAK NEO-LIBERAL INCREMENTAL POLICIES THAT GIVE TOO MANY CONCESSIONS TO THE PERPETRATORS AND THEIR POLITICAL LOBBYISTS, HAVE ALLOWED AND ENCOURAGED THEIR BEHAVIOUR.

ANIMAL
VANGUARD.
LIBERATION

WHEN YOU GET INTO IT, VEGANISM IS VERY VERY EASY, BUT IT'S SUCH AN EXTREME CHANGE FROM THE STANDARD WESTERN DIET THAT I THINK NEWCOMERS CAN FIND IT INTIMIDATING. FOR ANYONE THAT IS THINKING ABOUT MAKING THE TRANSITION TO VEGANISM, CAN YOU GIVE SOME POSITIVE ADVICE?

OF COURSE! MY GO-TO ADVICE, WHILE IT MAY NOT BE THE MOST EXCITING OR SEEM SUPER RADICAL, IS THIS: TRANSITION IN A WAY THAT YOU KNOW WILL CREATE A LASTING CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE. SOME PEOPLE CAN QUIT COLD TURKEY, WHETHER WE'RE TALKING CIGARETTES, ALCOHOL, CHEESE, OR WHAT HAVE YOU. THEY'RE ALL ADDICTIVE, AND YOU HAVE TO TREAT YOUR CONSUMPTION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS AS JUST THAT, AN ADDICTION. IF YOU THINK THAT YOU'LL BACKSLIDE IF YOU JUST GO COLD TURKEY (WHICH IS LIKELY, AND IN ADDITION IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR BODY TO DO SO, AS IT CAN SHOCK YOUR SYSTEM), THEN TAKE IT GRADUALLY. I HAVE GIVEN THIS ADVICE TO A TON OF PEOPLE, AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM HAS SEEN THE BENEFIT OF DOING IT THIS WAY... GRANTED PLEASE DON'T THINK I'M SAYING THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO EFFECTIVELY TRANSITION, BUT IT IS A WAY THAT WORKED FOR ME AND THAT I'VE SEEN WORK FOR OTHERS: FIRST, DECIDE A HARD DATE WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO START AND MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR. NEXT, WHEN THAT DATE ARRIVES, THAT'S YOUR FIRST "MEAT FREE DAY" ON YOUR FIRST WEEK. MAKE IT THROUGH THAT ONE DAY WITH NO MEAT OF ANY KIND. NEXT WEEK, DO TWO DAYS. THE THIRD WEEK DO THREE DAYS, ETC. AFTER SEVEN WEEKS YOU WILL BE FULLY VEGETARIAN, AND YOU HOPEFULLY WILL HAVE LEARNED TO SUPPLEMENT YOUR PROTEIN INTAKE AND ADJUST YOUR GROCERY SHOPPING HABITS AND ALL THAT. AFTER A WHILE, AND WHEN YOU FEEL CONFIDENT IN YOUR VEGETARIANISM (AFTER ALL, VEGETARIANISM SHOULD BE A STEPPING STONE, AS IT STILL HEAVILY CONTRIBUTES TO THE MURDER OF COUNTLESS ANIMALS DAILY, NOT TO MENTION POOR HEALTH ASSOCIATED WITH DAIRY AND EGGS, BUT I DIGRESS), IT'S TIME TO FOLLOW THE SAME METHOD FOR A SEVEN WEEK TRANSITION TO VEGANISM. AFTER THESE TWO STEPS, IF YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED TO COOK AND PREP YOUR OWN FOOD (YOU WILL), THEN YOU CAN FIND COUNTLESS AWESOME RECIPES AND RESTAURANTS ONLINE DURING THE COURSE OF THE TRANSITION. AND VOILA! WELCOME TO VEGANISM!

AND JUST SOME QUICK FIRE ONES;
FIRESTORM OR ALL OUT WAR? FIRESTORM, FOR ME.

BEST VEGAN DOCUMENTARY? FORKS OVER KNIVES REALLY GOT ME, BUT I'VE NEVER WATCHED ANY OF THE HARSHER ONES, BECAUSE WHEN THEY WERE GETTING POPULAR I WAS ALREADY ON MY VEGAN PATH.

BEST RECORD FROM 2019? I THINK THE BEST EP OF 2019 WAS INCLINATION'S "WHEN FEAR TURNS TO CONFIDENCE", AND THE BEST LP WAS RESTRAINING ORDER'S "THIS WORLD IS TOO MUCH".

DREAM LINEUP FOR VANGUARDS FIRST SHOW? IF I'M DREAMING, I'M GONNA GO ALL OUT AND SAY THAT EVEN BANDS THAT AREN'T AROUND ANYMORE WOULD REUNITE TO PLAY, AND IN THAT CASE I'D WANT THE THREE BANDS THAT INFLUENCED ME PERSONALLY THE MOST IN CREATING THE BAND: EARTH CRISIS, SEVEN GENERATIONS, AND ONE KING DOWN.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME. ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY OR ANY SHOUT OUTS? NO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAMBLE, THIS IS REALLY COOL. AND YEAH, SHOUT OUT TO MY BANDMATES IN VANGUARD AND LIFE FORCE: JOSH, DAVIS, FLETCHER, REICE, AND JOHN. ALSO SHOUT OUT TO THE XVX CREWS IN DALLAS AND DENVER. CHECK OUT THE ENTIRE NEW AGE RECORDS ROSTER, IT'S FULL OF WONDERFUL BANDS MADE UP OF WONDERFUL PEOPLE. ALSO, SHOUT OUT TO MY FIANCE HARLEY-PHOENIX, WHO IS THE LOVE OF MY LIFE, EVEN THOUGH COVID RUINED OUR WEDDING PLANS. LASTLY, NOW IS THE TIME TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND ORGANIZE, FOLKS. THE LEFT MUST BECOME ORGANIZED, PUT ASIDE OUR PETTY THEORY SQUABBLES, AND UNITE AROUND THE WORKING CLASS AND ARM OURSELVES FOR WHAT IS APPARENTLY RIGHT AROUND THE BEND. THIS IMPERATIVE HAS REALLY DRILLED HOME THE FACT THAT ALL STRUGGLE IS CLASS STRUGGLE, AND IF YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THE RULING CLASS BOURGEOISIE, THEN YOU'RE ONE OF US, AND IT'S HIGH TIME WE ALL REALIZE THAT OUR CAPITALIST OVERLORDS DO NOT NOW, AND HAVE NOT EVER GIVEN A SINGLE SHIT ABOUT THOSE OF US THAT GENERATE THEIR WEALTH AND GIVE THEM THEIR POWER. IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE POWER BACK, AND THIS STRUGGLE MUST BE ORGANIZED AND INTERSECTIONAL. BUY A RIFLE, LEARN TO USE IT, ORGANIZE AND PLAN WITH YOUR LOVED ONES AND NEIGHBOURS. LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER, AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL. GO VEGAN, STAY VEGAN.

NEW AGE RECORDS

RAGE OF DELIVERANCE IS OUT SOON ON NEW AGE RECORDS - UK HEADS CAN PRE-ORDER THE 12" FROM CORE-TEX HERE

LET'S STOP THIS DISGUSTING SHIT. GO VEGAN.

What's your favourite UKHC release?

We asked the community what their favourite records from our scene were.

These are some of their choices.

Alec Davies – MENTALLY VEXED/SUPPRESS/MANTLET
Brutality Will Prevail – Forgotten Soul
The first UKHC band I ever saw, Ghostfest 2009. Fuck, I'm old. Forgotten Soul is the mix of two-steps, breakdowns, and all-out sludge riffs with an eerie atmosphere throughout. They lost a lot of the sludge after this record but the atmosphere has carried through.

Mason Hussain – MENTALLY VEXED
Renounced - Theories Of Despair
After 43 mins of back to back crushing HC riffs with early 2000s metalcore chords sprinkled in, I was already in the recommended artists section beginning my free fall into the UKHC rabbit hole.

Jack Beale-Burchell – MENTALLY VEXED/SUPPRESS/MANTLET
Knuckledust - Time Won't Heal This
This was hard to pick, so many good records from so many good bands but this just edges out Bun Dem Out S/T for me. Great record from start to finish with a real classic sound. Also Pelbu enit.

Rich Wooding – READY EYE COLLECTIVE
Knuckledust - Universal Struggle
Whilst a lot of people go with Time Won't Heal This for their favourite KD record (understandable, it's incredible), Universal Struggle was the first KD record that I heard and it set me on a path that I still walk today. Real, raw, crushing HARDcore straight from the streets. London/UK hardcore personified. Knuckledust celebrate 25 years strong with the SAME LINEUP next year.

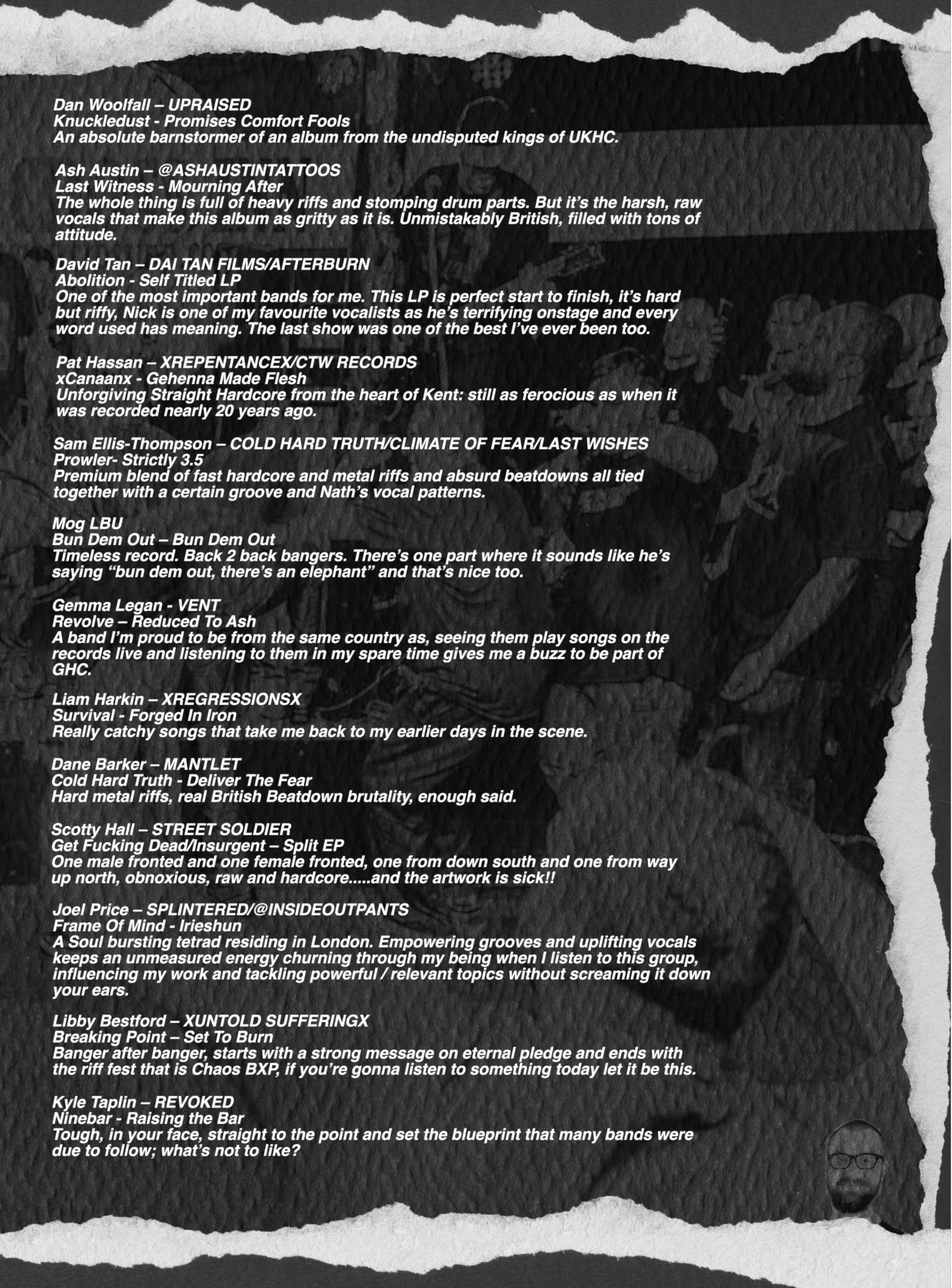
Dan O'Reilly – SPLINTERED/UPRAISED
Drawn In - A Higher Form Of Death
Crushing riffs, unstoppable thrash, politically charged lyrics and groves that just make you want to kick everyone in the head. You could not want anything more from a crossover thrash act that that record does not provide.

Louis Gino – READY EYE COLLECTIVE/IRONED OUT/LAST ORDERS
Blades Of Unity - Backpack Full Of C4
Mad riffs, mad lyrics, mad skits and Terry.

Gaz Davies – CRUELTY/XDELIVERANCEX
More Than Life - Love Let Me Go
Tension and atmosphere. Singalongs. Fast drumming. All songs in the same key. Still waiting on my LP from Purgatory, fingers crossed it'll be here soon.

Gemma Leigh
50 Cal - Internal Bleeding
50 Caliber know exactly how to drag you from HC heaven plummeting down to the depths of hell, with the aid of such insanely heavy breakdowns mixed with a few grooves along the way. This album still after 18 years brings me instant joy every time!

Harley Rowley – FULL CONTACT/ETERNAL DISCIPLINE
Heavy Hands - 2011 Demo
My favourite UKHC release is probably the Heavy Hands 2011 demo and their self titled EP. At that point in my life I hadn't heard anything that raw and the intensity holds up to this day.



Dan Woolfall – UPRAISED
Knuckledust - Promises Comfort Fools
An absolute barnstormer of an album from the undisputed kings of UKHC.

Ash Austin – @ASHAUSTINTATTOOS
Last Witness - Mourning After
The whole thing is full of heavy riffs and stomping drum parts. But it's the harsh, raw vocals that make this album as gritty as it is. Unmistakably British, filled with tons of attitude.

David Tan – DAI TAN FILMS/AFTERBURN
Abolition - Self Titled LP
One of the most important bands for me. This LP is perfect start to finish, it's hard but riffy, Nick is one of my favourite vocalists as he's terrifying onstage and every word used has meaning. The last show was one of the best I've ever been too.

Pat Hassan – XREPENTANCEX/CTW RECORDS
xCanaanx - Gehenna Made Flesh
Unforgiving Straight Hardcore from the heart of Kent: still as ferocious as when it was recorded nearly 20 years ago.

Sam Ellis-Thompson – COLD HARD TRUTH/CLIMATE OF FEAR/LAST WISHES
Prowler- Strictly 3.5
Premium blend of fast hardcore and metal riffs and absurd beatdowns all tied together with a certain groove and Nath's vocal patterns.

Mog LBU
Bun Dem Out – Bun Dem Out
Timeless record. Back 2 back bangers. There's one part where it sounds like he's saying "bun dem out, there's an elephant" and that's nice too.

Gemma Legan - VENT
Revolve – Reduced To Ash
A band I'm proud to be from the same country as, seeing them play songs on the records live and listening to them in my spare time gives me a buzz to be part of GHC.

Liam Harkin – XREGRESSIONSX
Survival - Forged In Iron
Really catchy songs that take me back to my earlier days in the scene.

Dane Barker – MANTLET
Cold Hard Truth - Deliver The Fear
Hard metal riffs, real British Beatdown brutality, enough said.

Scotty Hall – STREET SOLDIER
Get Fucking Dead/Insurgent – Split EP
One male fronted and one female fronted, one from down south and one from way up north, obnoxious, raw and hardcore.....and the artwork is sick!!

Joel Price – SPLINTERED/@INSIDEOUTPANTS
Frame Of Mind - Irieshun
A Soul bursting tetrad residing in London. Empowering grooves and uplifting vocals keeps an unmeasured energy churning through my being when I listen to this group, influencing my work and tackling powerful / relevant topics without screaming it down your ears.

Libby Bestford – XUNTOLD SUFFERINGX
Breaking Point – Set To Burn
Banger after banger, starts with a strong message on eternal pledge and ends with the riff fest that is Chaos BXP, if you're gonna listen to something today let it be this.

Kyle Taplin – REVOKED
Ninebar - Raising the Bar
Tough, in your face, straight to the point and set the blueprint that many bands were due to follow; what's not to like?

Embrace Death

SWEDISH BEATDOWN MERCHANTS EMBRACE DEATH SPRUNG OUT WITH "FINALLY AT PEACE" IN EARLY 2019. THE BAND HAVE BEEN PLAYING SOME CRAZY SHOWS SINCE THEN, PUTTING OUT BEATDOWN WITHOUT BULLSHIT - THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

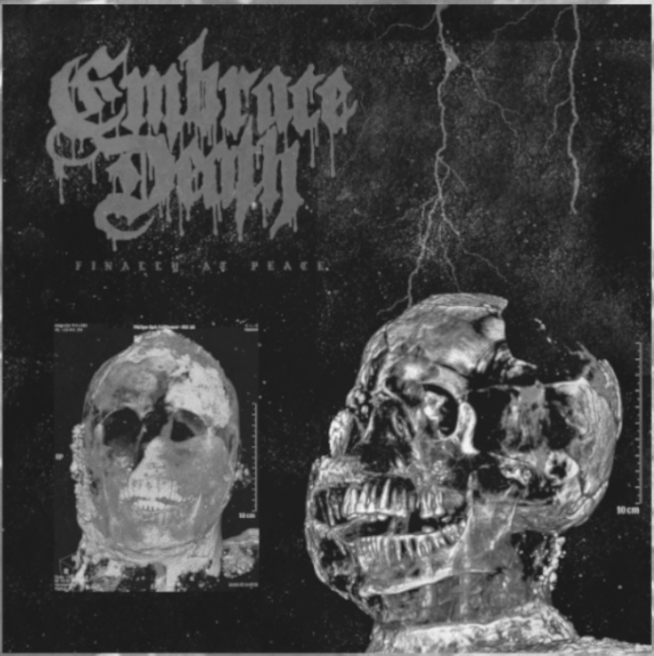
GET TO KNOW EMBRACE DEATH HERE BEFORE THEY DROP THEIR NEW EP "THROUGH LIFELESS EYES", THROUGH NUCLEAR FAMILY X MENTALLY VEXED.

HEY JENS, HOW'S IT GOING MAN?
HEY MAN! I'M REAL GOOD.

EMBRACE DEATH IS FROM STOCKHOLM, RIGHT? WHAT'S YOUR LOCAL SCENE LIKE?
ACTUALLY, ONLY ONE MEMBER FROM THE BAND IS FROM STOCKHOLM, THE REST OF US ARE FROM A SMALLER TOWN CALLED OREBRO. THE LOCAL SCENE HERE IN OREBRO IS PRETTY MUCH DEAD, SO INSTEAD WE SEE THE STOCKHOLM SCENE AS OUR OWN. WE HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE SCENE IN STOCKHOLM IS REALLY GOOD, BUT IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS IT HAS GOTTEN BETTER AND BETTER. NOW THERE IS MORE BANDS, MORE PEOPLE ATTENDING THE SHOWS AND OVER ALL A BETTER VIBE.

THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND WITH STOCKHOLM AND HEAVY MUSIC IS THE INSANE DEATH METAL RIFFS OF DISMEMBER AND ENTOMBED. DO YOU DIG THOSE BANDS? DO YOU FEEL THEIR INFLUENCE IN ANY WAY?
AS I SAID PREVIOUSLY, THE MAJORITY OF THE BAND MEMBERS ARE FROM OREBRO BUT OF COURSE WE'VE ALL LISTENED TO DISMEMBER AND ENTOMBED. THOUGH, WE DON'T TAKE THAT MUCH INFLUENCE FROM THOSE BANDS.

"IN TERMS OF THE CRAZIEST SHOW, THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND IS WHEN WE PLAYED A SHOW IN TAMPERE, FINLAND WHERE WE GOT KICKED OUT BEFORE OUR SET BECAUSE OF US (ME) MOSHING A BIT TOO HARD ON PEOPLE AND HAD TO RELOCATE THE SHOW TO A TINY REHEARSAL SPACE DOWN TOWN."



YOU RELEASED FINALLY AT PEACE TAPES THROUGH NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS FROM WALES. HOW DID THAT RELATIONSHIP START?
I FIRST CAME IN CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE FROM NUCLEAR FAMILY WITH MY OTHER BAND ''NO SAVING GRACE'' WHEN WE WERE PLANNING A RUN OF UK SHOWS. ALL THOUGH, NUCLEAR FAMILY REACHED OUT TO US IN EMBRACE DEATH SHORTLY AFTER WE RELEASED THE FIRST EP LAST YEAR. SINCE THEN WE HAVE KEPT IN CONTACT THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, AND WE ARE RELEASING OUR NEW EP ''THROUGH LIFELESS EYES'' THROUGH THEM & MENTALLY VEXED AS WELL.

WAS FINALLY AT PEACE WELL RECEIVED?
ABSOLUTELY. NOTHING WE HAVE RELEASED WITH OUR PREVIOUS BANDS HAS BEEN AS WELL RECEIVED AS FINALLY AT PEACE. I NEVER THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD GET AS MUCH ATTENTION AS IT HAS, YET IT'S REALLY FUN TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE SEEM TO ENJOY.

WE MET WHEN YOU PLAYED SMALES FEST IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR. WAS THAT YOUR FIRST SHOW IN THE UK? HOW WAS THAT EXPERIENCE?
YES, IT WAS OUR FIRST SHOW IN THE UK WITH EMBRACE DEATH. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO PLAY IN MANCHESTER THE NIGHT BEFORE SMALES FEST, BUT OUR REALLY EXPENSIVE LAST MINUTE FLIGHTS GOT DELAYED AND A COMBINATION OF TERRIBLE WEATHER AND TRAFFIC MADE OUR THREE HOUR TRIP TURN INTO SIX HOURS INSTEAD. THIS MADE US MISS WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE OUR FIRST UK SHOW. ALTHOUGH, SMALES FEST WAS GREAT, WITH GOOD PEOPLE, GOOD BANDS AND A LOT OF MOSH AND THAT MADE IT ALL WORTH IT IN THE END.

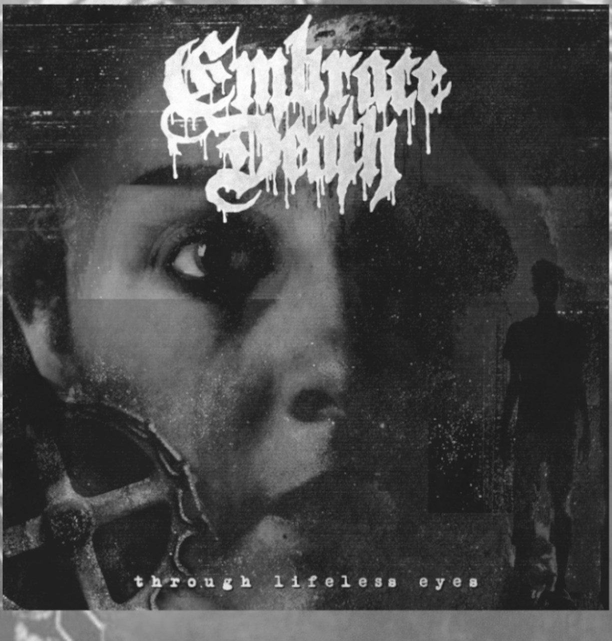
QUICK SHOUTOUT TO ALL THE BANDS WHO LEND US THEIR GEAR AT SMALES FEST, WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU.

YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN WRITING SOME NEW MUSIC, WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THAT? DO YOU HAVE A RELEASE DATE?
I WOULD SAY THAT OUR SOUND HAS EVOLVED A BIT WITH THE NEW SONGS AND THERE IS MORE OF A "VEGETABLE METAL" SOUND TO THE NEW EP. WITH THAT SAID, IF YOU'RE INTO OLD METALCORE AND THE KIND OF HEAVY MOSH PARTS WE HAD ON FINALLY AT PEACE, YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED THIS TIME EITHER.

WE DROP THROUGH LIFELESS EYES ON 30TH OCTOBER!

I HAVE TO ASK THIS QUESTION, GIVEN THE SWEDISH CONNECTION - DISMEMBER OR ENTOMBED? WHY?
FOR ME IT WOULD BE ENTOMBED BASED ON THE FACT THAT I LISTEN A LOT MORE TO THEM THAN DISMEMBER AND LEFT HAND PATH IS A REALLY REALLY GOOD RECORD.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME MAN, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?
THANKS FOR WANTING TO DO THIS WITH US MAN, I JUST WANT TO GIVE A SHOUTOUT TO JACOB BONDESSON FOR DOING THE ARTWORK ON BOTH THE NEW AND OLD EP, TO JUSSI FROM GRAY STATE FOR DOING A GUEST SPOT AND TO ALL THE PEOPLE AT NUCLEAR FAMILY & MENTALLY VEXED WHO ARE SORTING US OUT WITH MERCH/ TAPES FOR THE RELEASE. WHEN THINGS GO BACK TO NORMAL THEN DON'T HESITATE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US IF YOU LIKE WHAT YOU HEAR OR IF YOU WANT US TO COME PLAY A SHOW. CHEERS!



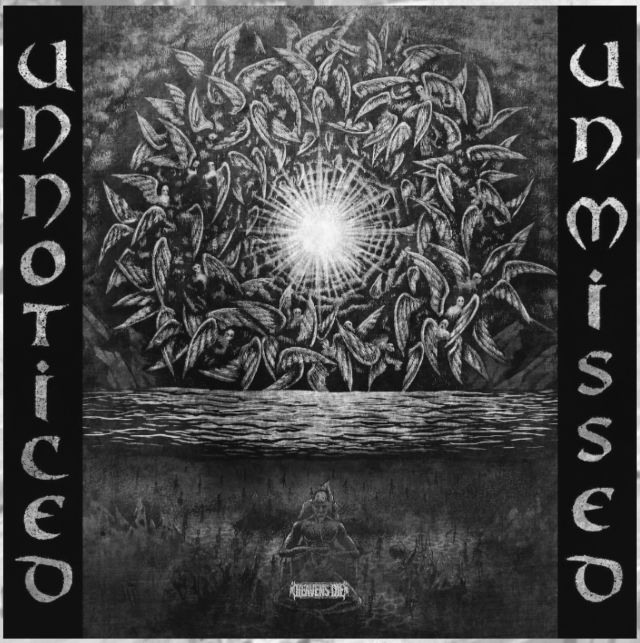
The Coming Strife
Records

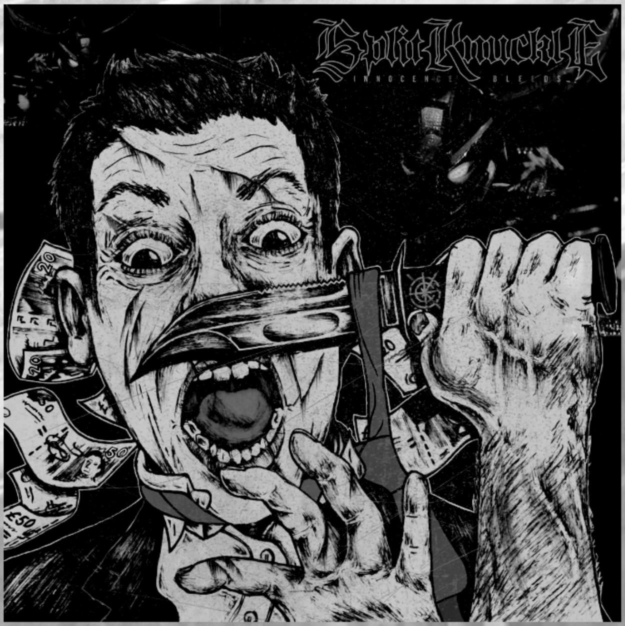
THE COMING STRIFE HAS RELEASED SOME OF THE MOST MEMORABLE RECORDS OF THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, WITH IMPORTANT RELEASES FROM BOTH UKHC AND INTERNATIONAL BANDS. OLI GRINDS HARDER THAN MOST IN THIS GAME, AND IT SHOWS IN HIS BACK CATALOGUE.

HEY OLI, HOPE YOU'RE GOOD MAN. HOW AND WHEN DID THE COMING STRIFE START?
WHAT'S UP ALEC, I'M ALL GOOD, BUSY AS EVER BUT GOOD!
TCS STARTED IN JANUARY OF 2019. I'D BEEN IN RAGE FOR LIKE A YEAR AND AFTER LEAVING TO FOCUS ON MY PGCE I KNEW I WANTED TO DO MY OWN THING AT SOME POINT WHERE I HAD COMPLETE CREATIVE CONTROL. TCS WAS BORN FROM A LOVE OF PHYSICAL MEDIA AND WANTING TO PROMOTE BANDS THAT I THOUGHT DESERVED MORE RECOGNITION.

WERE YOU PLAYING IN BANDS BEFORE THE LABEL?
NEVER PLAYED IN A BAND BEFORE AND PROBABLY NEVER WILL. CAN'T PLAY ANY INSTRUMENTS AND DON'T HAVE ANY FORM OF CONFIDENCE TO DO VOCALS.

WHAT WAS THE FIRST RELEASE? IS THERE ANY STORY BEHIND IT?
HA. BIT OF AN AWKWARD QUESTION NOW. IT WAS A FRIENDS DEMO THAT I NO LONGER TALK TO. SECOND RELEASE WAS COOL THOUGH SO I'LL TALK ABOUT THAT INSTEAD. HEAVENS DIE FROM VIRGINIA, THEIR EP UNNOTICED AND UNMISSED WHICH I'D BEEN LISTENING TO LIKE ALL SUMMER. FIRST INTERNATIONAL BAND I DID AND IT WAS SUCH A SMOOTH PROCESS. I APPROACHED THEM WITH A RIP IN MIND FOR AN ALT COVER AND WE SWITCHED IT UP A BIT, ENDED UP WITH THIS SICK DAREDEVIL ALT COVER, TAPES SOLD REALLY WELL. I LOVE THAT BAND, HOPE THEY DO SOME MORE SHIT SOON.





AND WHICH RELEASE ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?
EVERY VINYL RELEASE REALLY, BUT I'D PROBABLY SAY SPLITKNUCKLE, THE FIRST 12" I DID. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY BAND THAT HAVE MORE OF A NATURAL CHEMISTRY AND JUST COMPLETE PROFICIENCY WITH THEIR INSTRUMENTS WHICH REALLY SHOWS IN THE MUSIC THEY PRODUCE. I'VE SEEN THEM COUNTLESS TIMES AND FOR THAT TO BE THE FIRST VINYL RELEASE ON THE LABEL IS STILL VERY SPECIAL TO ME.

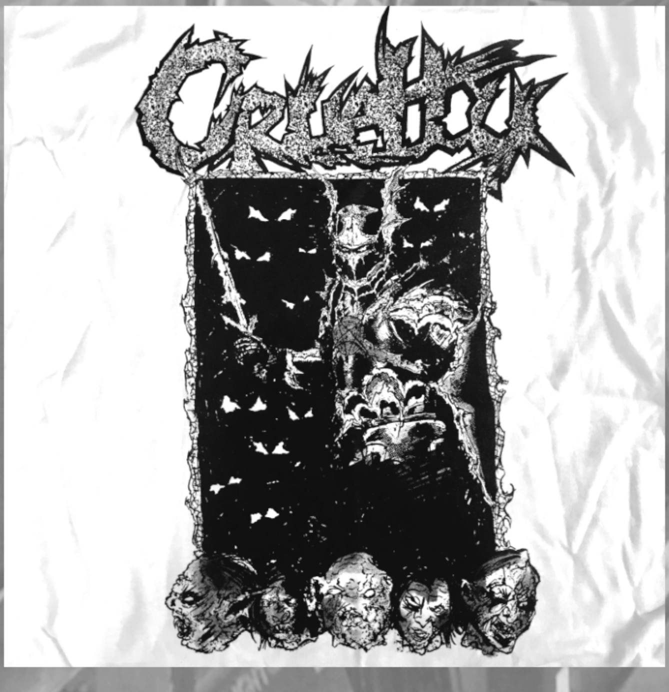
ARE THERE ANY LABELS YOU LOOK UP TO?
I'VE ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO LIFE.LAIR.REGRET FROM AUSTRALIA, NOT ONLY FOR PUTTING OUT GREAT MUSIC BUT FOR GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY SO MUCH. GOT A LOT OF RESPECT FOR JOSH AT NUCLEAR FAMILY FOR CONSTANTLY SUPPORTING HIS PEERS, AND GRINDING HAAARD, PARTICULARLY IN THIS LAST YEAR. AND OF COURSE, I FUCK HEAVILY WITH GOODLIFE (NOT SO MUCH NOW, BUT IN THEIR HEYDAY), AND TAKE A LOT OF INSPIRATION FROM ALL THEIR LAYOUTS.

CHECK OUT THE COMING STRIFE'S MERCH GAME, THAT SHIT IS ABSOLUTELY INSANE

THE COMING STRIFE RECORDS
COVERS COMPILATION

HOW'S THE ZINE GOING? WHO'VE YOU INTERVIEWED SO FAR?
ISSUE 2 OF THE ZINE FINALLY JUST CAME OUT. I INTERVIEWED EMBITTER, CAULDRON, DAZE, UNDERDARK, DESPIZE AND GOT SOME TOP 5S FROM PEOPLE TOO. IT TOOK A FUCKIN LONG TIME TO COME OUT CUZ I RUSHED INTO IT AFTER THE FIRST ISSUE AND GOT REAL BURNT OUT. I FINALLY WENT BACK TO IT A FEW MONTHS BACK AND HATED HOW IT LOOKED. AFTER SITTING ON IT FOR A WHILE (AND BUYING A NEW PRINTER..) I SCRAPPED IT AND DID THE WHOLE THING CUT AND PASTE WHICH I THINK LOOKS INFINITELY BETTER. I'VE GOT SOME IDEAS FOR NEW INTERVIEWS BUT I THINK I'LL LEAVE IT FOR A WHILE YET, MAYBE DO LIKE A MINI ISSUE AT SOME POINT FIRST.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE LABEL?
COVERS COMP CD OUT ON HALLOWEEN. FOREIGN HANDS TAPE SOONISH. WHISPERS 12" IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. CONDITIONED FROM BIRTH 12" AT SOME POINT. MOURNING 12" PROBABLY JANUARY-ISH. SECRET XXX 12".



VISIT THE COMING STRIFE'S BIGCARTEL STORE HERE

YOU JUST GOT A WICKED NEW DEATH METAL LOGO, WHO DESIGNED THAT? DO YOU HAVE A GO-TO "DESIGN GUY"?
SO THAT NEW LOGO IS TAKEN FROM THE ARTWORK FOR THE UPCOMING COVERS COMP THAT BRANDON WATKINS (YOTK) DID. HE WAS SUPER EASY TO WORK WITH, SENT ME REGULAR UPDATES AND I THINK IT TURNED OUT GREAT. THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HIT HIM UP FOR A DESIGN, BUT I HAD BEEN MEANING TO AFTER SEEING THAT COOL CRUELTY SHIRT HE DID. MY ACTUAL LOGO IS BY THE ROTTING MESS, WHO HAD DONE THE MOURNED ARTWORK. I LOVE LORD OF THE RINGS SO IT'S GENERALLY LINKED TO THAT HAHA.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME MAN, ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY?
BUY RECORDS, GO VEGAN, READ COMICS.

JONNY PIPES OF REALM OF TORMENT, THE NOW-DEAD RAGE RECORDS, AND A TON OF OTHER BANDS, TOOK THE TIME TO CHAT ABOUT LOADS OF INANE SHIT. THANKS FOR YOUR TIME JONNY!

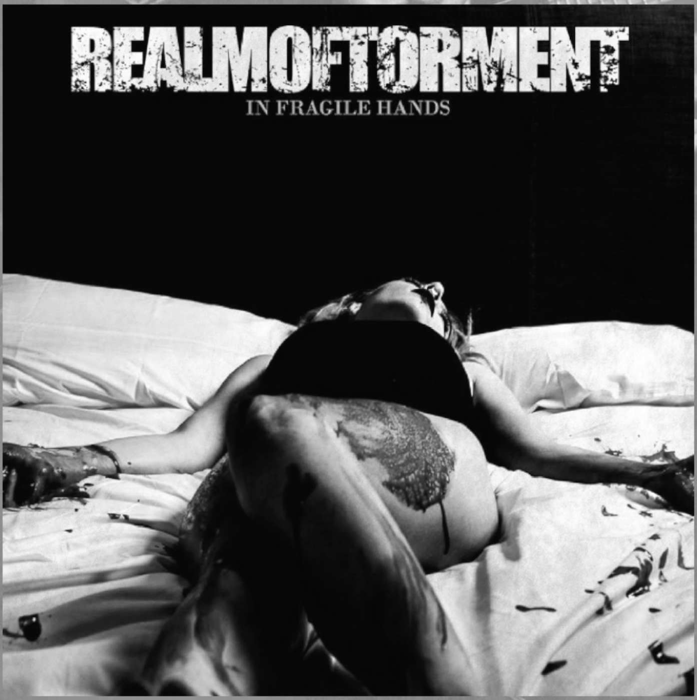
YO, HOW YOU DOING JONNY?
HELLO HELLO, I AM GOOD, CURRENTLY SAT EATING CO-OP OWN BRAND WEETABIX & DEALING WITH FOOTBALL CLUB DRAMA WHILE WORKING FROM HOME IN MY BOXERS.

HOW LONG HAVE REALM OF TORMENT BEEN TOGETHER? WHO PLAYS WHAT?
IT HAS NOW BEEN GOING ON 7 & A HALF YEARS (JESUS). GUITARS ARE ME & JACK ORBA, ANDY NEWMAN DRUMS, RYAN YELLAND BASS, DAVID LITTLE VOCALS. WE'VE ALSO HAD ANOTHER BASSIST NATHAN JAGGER IN THIS TIME & STARTED WITH 2 VOCALISTS, ONE BEING ADAM TOULMIN WHO NOW PLAYS BASS IN MOURNING.

WAS REALM YOUR FIRST BAND? WHAT OTHER BANDS HAVE YOU DONE STINTS WITH?
MY FIRST BAND HAPPENED IN COLLEGE & WAS KINDA LIKE POST-HARDCORE / SOUTHERN-ROCK / HARDCORE I GUESS IS THE BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE. IT WAS OKAY, WASN'T AWFUL, BUT THE PEOPLE IN IT WEREN'T REALLY INTO GREAT MUSIC SO COULD HAVE BEEN COOLER BUT WE DID END UP PLAYING SHOWS WITH THROATS, SHAPED BY FATE & RINOA. I WAS IN NO EXCUSE, NIHILITY FOR A FEW YEARS COMING & GOING AT VARIOUS POINTS, OVERTURN & LESS THAN ZERO.

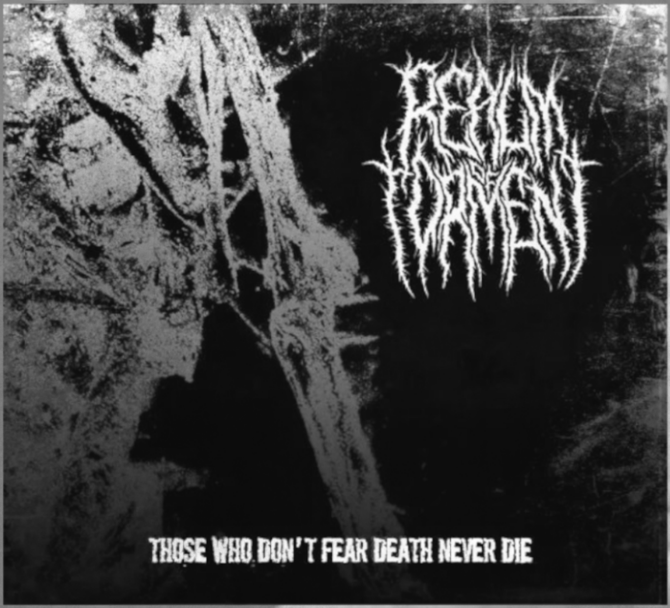
WHEN I FIRST HEARD YOU GUYS, THERE WAS LIKE AN EXPLOSION OF NEW BANDS FROM THE SOUTH COAST AND SOUTHAMPTON IN PARTICULAR - I'M THINKING YOU, NIHILITY, SAVAGE YOUTH, OVERTURN. WHY WERE THERE SO MANY BANDS ABOUT THAT SUMMER?
THROUGH UYC WE BASICALLY BUILT UP AN AMAZING SCENE FOR A HANDFUL OF YEARS, EVERYONE WAS ROUGHLY AGED BETWEEN 17-24 WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THIS PERIOD & EITHER AT COLLEGE, UNI. OR NEW TO THE REAL WORLD OF WORKING. SO BECAUSE OF THIS & EVERYONE BEING SUPER YOUNG ALL EVERYONE CARED ABOUT WAS HARDCORE & SHOWS & TOURING & MAKING MUSIC, SO IT RESULTED IN A PERIOD WITH SO MUCH SHIT GOING ON WITH BANDS & SHOWS & ALL SORTS.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE REALM SOUND, TO ANYONE THAT HASN'T HEARD YOU?
ONE OF THE SMALL % OF BANDS PLAYING METALCORE THE WAY IT SHOULD BE IN THE YEAR 2020.



MY PERSONAL FAVOURITE RELEASE IS IN FRAGILE HANDS. THERE'S A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VIBE, IT'S POPPIER BUT IT'S STILL GOT ALL THE MOSH PARTS. WHAT MADE YOU THINK "LET'S GET SOME CLEAN VOCALS"? WHO SANG THE GUEST VOCALS ON THAT RECORD?
NOW THAT I DID NOT EXPECT TO HEAR, THE PRODUCTION AINT GREAT FOR MANY REASONS ON IFG BUT I THINK THESE ARE OUR BEST SONGS STYLISTICALLY / WRITING-WISE. LITERALLY DECIDED TO HAVE A GIRL SINGING BECAUSE OF THAT IKTPQ SONG & THAT 'POPPY' BIT IN THE SONG WAS ALREADY WRITTEN, SO IT KINDA JUST WORKED WITH THE MUSIC. IT WAS A GIRL CALLED MOLLIE WHO USED TO LIVE DOWN THIS WAY WE KNEW OF, A FRIEND JUST SAID SHE COULD SING WHEN WE'D MENTIONED ABOUT WANTING TO HAVE A GIRL SINGING & THEN WE JUST ARRANGED IT FROM THERE, SHE'S NOT IN ANY BANDS OR GOT MUSIC OUT OR ANYTHING AS FAR AS I'M AWARE.

"THOSE WHO DON'T FEAR DEATH NEVER DIE" CAME OUT LAST YEAR, WITH PHYSICAL RELEASES FROM THE COMING STRIFE, MARK MY WORDS, BOUND BY MODERN AGE AND SEVENTH DAY. WHAT WAS THE RECEPTION LIKE FOR THE RECORD?
HMM, I FEEL MIXED, WE GAINED A GOOD INCREASE IN SPOTIFY LISTENERS WITH A LOT COMING FROM AMERICA WHICH IS COOL, I THINK MORE 'HARDCORE' TYPE PEOPLE INTO US PROBABLY LIKE IT LESS THAN THE FIRST ALBUM WITH THAT BEING A BIT MORE 90S HC / METALCORE INFLUENCED & THIS MORE ON THE DEATHCORE SIDE. THEN AGAIN PEOPLE MORE ON THE METAL SIDE SEEM TO LOVE IT'S RAWNESS SO I THINK WE ACHIEVED WHAT WE WANTED.


REALM OF TORMENT
THOSE WHO DON'T FEAR DEATH NEVER DIE

HOW LONG WERE YOU WRITING FOR? WHAT WERE YOU LISTENING TO? (I KNOW THE ANSWER IS GOING TO BE "MYSPACE METALCORE").
PRETTY MUCH A YEAR, WE HAD OUR FIRST PRACTICE FOR IT IN JANUARY 2018 I THINK AFTER COMING UP WITH BITS AT HOME, THEN WENT TO STUDIO 6 TO RECORD LIKE FEBRUARY 2019. HAHAHA WELL, I ACTUALLY WASN'T LISTENING TO ANYTHING PARTICULAR, BUT WE DECIDE WAY IN ADVANCE OF EACH RELEASE WHAT WE WANT IT TO SOUND LIKE AS WE DON'T LIKE DOING THE EXACT STYLE OF THE PREVIOUS RELEASE. WE KNEW WE WANTED TO GO MORE DEATHCORE WAY WAY BEFORE EVEN STARTING WRITING, I THINK WE DECIDED TRYING TO AIM FOR A COMBO OF OLD CARNIFEX & IT DIES TODAY.

DO YOU GUYS TEND TO WRITE SONGS TOGETHER AS A BAND, OR IS THERE A MAIN SONGWRITER?
SO NORMALLY IT WILL BE I'LL WRITE A SONG ON GUITAR ON MY OWN OR I'LL GO TO JACK'S & WE SMASH RIFFS TOGETHER IN HIS LAPTOP UNTIL IT SOUNDS LIKE IT COULD FORM A SONG, THEN WE'LL GO TO PRACTICE & WORK OUR WAY THROUGH THE SONGS, I USUALLY HAVE A ROUGH IDEA OF HOW DRUM BITS COULD GO FOR ALL THE RIFFS SO TRY TO AUDIBLY DESCRIBE IT TO ANDY THEN JUST LET HIM DO WHATEVER HE WANTS FOR THE MOST PART.

TWDFDND IS A MOSH RECORD. WAS THAT THE AIM FROM THE START?
MAKE A DEATHCORE MOSH-METAL RECORD WITH AN OBNOXIOUS POINTY LOGO TO HAVE ON HARDCORE FLYERS TO OSTRACISE PEOPLE FROM LIKING US MORE THAN THEY ALREADY DO.

ANY PLANS FOR A FOLLOW-UP?
THERE'S BEEN PLANS FOR A WHILE, WE WERE TALKING ABOUT A BIT MORE OF A STRIPPED BACK EP, WE HAVE SOME RIFFS & BITS IN JACK'S LAPTOP BUT I'VE BEEN TOO SWAMPED FINISHING MY MASTERS OFF TO REVISIT THEM FOR A LONG TIME, SO ONCE I GOT THIS MONTH OUT THE WAY HOPEFULLY I FEEL THE URGE TO GO BACK TO THEM.

DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL FAVOURITE REALM SONG, AND WHY?
I'LL GO BY RELEASE: SLAVE-NATION (DEMO) HAS KIND OF BECOME IT'S OWN THING WHICH IS EQUALLY FUNNY TO SICK, PAIN INCARNATE (TOHAD) END SLAM IS INSANE & JUST ENDLESSLY FUN TO PLAY PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS PLAYED IT, HOPELESS APATHY (IFG) IS MUSICALLY SPEAKING OUR BEST SONG HANDS DOWN ANYONE WHO DOESN'T THINK SO IS WRONG, RECREATIONAL OUTRAGE (TWDFDND) VERY BUSY GUITAR-WISE AND PRETTY RELENTLESS TO PLAY. ALSO THINK QUIET UNDER THE MOON IS GENUINELY EPIC REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH FRIENDS & BAND MEMBERS ROAST ME FOR THE WHISPERING

YOU WENT OUT TO EUROPE WITH CRUELTY LAST YEAR, HOW WAS THAT? DO YOU GO DOWN PRETTY WELL ON THE CONTINENT? WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE COUNTRY TO VISIT AND WHY?
IN THE TOP 2 EUROPEAN TOURS WE'VE DONE FOR SURE, WE KIND OF KNEW A COUPLE OF THEM IN PASSING BEFORE BUT NOT HAD MUCH REASON TO SPENT TIME TOGETHER. WE CAME TO REALISE WE'RE VERY SIMILARLY BANDS & FULL OF AS MUCH SHIT AS EACH OTHER SO IT WAS A JOKES 2 WEEKS & NOW WE'RE BFF. YEAH, WE'VE BEEN TO EUROPE QUITE A FEW TIMES NOW SO GENERALLY SHOWS ARE PRETTY GOOD & WE HAVE FRIENDS IN A BUNCH OF PLACES OVER THERE. THERE'S NORMALLY ONE OR TWO EMPTY SHOWS A TOUR (TO BE EXPECTED) BUT EVEN THOSE AREN'T THE WORST THING EVER, THOUGH ONE WITH CRUELTY WAS ABSOLUTELY FUCKING DEAD, BUT AT THE SAME TIME AT LEAST A COUPLE OF OUR CRAZIEST HAVE BEEN OVER THERE. PROBABLY BELGIUM IS OUR COLLECTIVE FAVOURITE COUNTRY, PLUS WE NORMALLY HAVE A FEW OFF DAYS TO EXPLORE & GET TO CHILL WITH SOME FRIENDS. I'D ALSO SAY ANYWHERE EASTERN EUROPE, WE'VE BEEN TO POLAND & CZECH REPUBLIC, & I WENT TO SLOVAKIA WITH NO EXCUSE, IT'S PROBABLY WHERE THE MOST RIDICULOUS TOUR TYPE SHIT HAS HAPPENED.

HOW MUCH ARE YOU MISSING SHOWS /10? DO YOU SEE ANYTHING HAPPENING THIS YEAR?
NGL I'VE PROBABLY NOT MISSED THEM ONE BIT AS I'VE NEEDED TO FOCUS ON MY DEGREE & NOTHING ELSE FOR THE LONGEST TIME HAHA, BUT WE DID HAVE A UK TOUR PLANNED IN SUMMER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A COUPLE YEARS WHICH HAD TO BE CANCELLED, WE FINISHED BOOKING IT NOT TOO LONG BEFORE EVERYTHING STARTED KICKING OFF SO THAT WAS A BIT SHIT. I CURRENTLY FEEL LIKE NO? THERE'S BLACK DAHLIA MURDER & VENOM PRISON SHOWS BOOKED IN SOUTHAMPTON FOR JANUARY SO I'M HOPING I'M WRONG.

LISTEN TO REALM OF TORMENT HERE

"IN GENERAL RAGE WAS JUST SOMETHING THAT SHOWED ME I'M CAPABLE OF LITERALLY DOING WHATEVER I WANT & I TOOK IT ON AS A MINDSET MORE THAN ANYTHING."

YOU ALSO RAN RAGE FOR A FEW YEARS, AND PUT OUT SOME INCREDIBLE RECORDS. YOU DID A LOT FOR SOME SMALLER UKHC BANDS. HOW AND WHEN DID RAGE START?

THANK YOU FOR THE NICE WORDS FIRSTLY, FEELS MORE DISTANT THAT IT REALLY IS TO ME NOW SO IT'S SICK WHEN PEOPLE RECOGNISE IT. RAGE STARTED IN 2012 ORIGINALLY AS A ZINE MUCH LIKE THIS, I THINK I DID LIKE 5 ZINES IN THE END. AT SOME POINT LOUIS FROM CURRENT HIGHER POWER FAME MENTIONED HIS NEW BAND FERAL YOUTH JUST FINISHED RECORDING A DEMO, THEY HAD NO RELEASE PLANS SO I SAID FUCK IT I'LL GIVE IT A AGO & IT PRETTY MUCH JUST SNOWBALLED FROM THERE. I DID A SHOW UNDER THE RAGE NAME TOO THAT SUMMER WHICH OVER-TIME JUST BECAME A UYC SHOW AS THAT WAS TAKING PLACE TOO, SO BY THAT SUMMER RAGE HAD PRETTY MUCH TURNED INTO A LABEL & THE UYC THING WAS GOING, HENCE ALL THOSE BANDS STARTED TO APPEAR OVER TIME.

YOU MADE THE DECISION IN JUNE TO STREAM THE AFTER THE CHAOS SHOW FROM 2016, WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY ONLY AVAILABLE ON DVD. WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO RELEASE IT DIGITALLY? SHOULD WE TAKE THIS AS A HINT THAT RAGE MAY BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN?

PART BOREDOM FROM LOCKDOWN, PART AS A WAY TO TRY TO GET SOME MORE PEOPLE DONATING TO THE BLM STUFF THAT WAS GOING CRAZY AT THE TIME, THE DVD WAS ALWAYS GOING TO GO UP AT SOME POINT, SO IT JUST SEEMED LIKE A GOOD TIME WITH PEOPLE HAVING NOT MUCH TO DO & BEING ABLE TO MAYBE POINT A COUPLE NEW PEOPLE TOWARDS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DONATION FUNDS ETC. THAT WERE BEING PUSHED IN AMERICA. HAHA HMMM, I WOULDN'T RULE OUT ME DOING SOMETHING AGAIN ONE DAY, THE COMING STRIFE HAS BASICALLY MONOPOLISED WHAT RAGE WAS DOING TENFOLD, SO IF I DID DO SOMETHING AGAIN I'D POTENTIALLY CONSIDER OTHER AVENUES NOW I KNOW HOW TO DO STUFF.

ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR RAGE MOMENTS OR RELEASES THAT YOU'RE PROUD OF?

THE FACT WE PUT OUT A BAND WHO HAVE GOT AS BIG AND SUCCESSFUL AS VEIN IS CRAZY, LIKE SEEING THEM ON THOSE WHILE SHE SLEEPS SHOWS, I'M LIKE HUH, WE MADE CASSETTE TAPES FOR THAT BAND PLAYING BRIXTON BEFORE PRETTY MUCH ANYBODY IN THE UK REALLY HAD A CLUE WHO VEIN WERE, NOW THEY SOLD A HEADLINE TOUR ACROSS THE COUNTRY. MOMENTS I'M NOT SURE THOUGH, THE ALL-DAYERS WERE AMAZING & SOME OF MY FAVOURITE SHOWS TO PLAY/PUT ON/ATTEND. IN GENERAL RAGE WAS JUST SOMETHING THAT SHOWED ME I'M CAPABLE OF LITERALLY DOING WHATEVER I WANT & I TOOK IT ON AS A MINDSET MORE THAN ANYTHING. WE KNEW HALF THE SHIT WE PUT OUT HAD DIFFERENT FLOORS, BUT WE DIDN'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ANYONE'S OPINION EVER & STILL MADE AN IMPACT MORE THAN A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD WANNA ADMIT BECAUSE SOME HARDCORE PEOPLE THINK METALCORE HAS NO PLACE IN HARDCORE. STARTING IT ALSO ULTIMATELY LED TO THE TOURING, MUSIC I'VE MADE & EXPERIENCES I'VE GAINED PUTTING ON SHOWS ETC., IT'S ALL VERY TRANSFERABLE TO THE REAL WORLD & MY LIFE TODAY.

WE'RE CURRENTLY SEEING A BIT OF A RESURGENCE IN XVX METALCORE BANDS, DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT TO BE SAID ON THE SUBJECT OF VEGANISM IN HARDCORE? AND DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY ORIGINALITY LEFT IN THIS STYLE?

MUSICALLY I DON'T THINK IT NEEDS TO BE ORIGINAL, IT JUST NEEDS TO BE SICK, YOU JUST GOTTA KNOW HOW TO WRITE GENUINELY SICK RIFFS & SONGS TBH.

Marshall
Ibanez
Champion

. I THINK MAYBE THE OVERTLY VEGAN THING OF TRYING TO MAKE YOUR ENTIRE BAND ABOUT IT GOES OVER MY HEAD A BIT THESE DAYS, BUT I THINK THAT'S NATURAL WHERE I'VE BEEN VEGAN A WHILE NOW, WAS SUPER SUPER INTO IT MYSELF BEFORE & SEEN LIKE REPENTANCE DO IT, SERVITUDE (I SAID IT), ELEGY, SO IT'S JUST NOTHING LIKE NEW TO ME. I IMAGINE THOUGH FOR YOUNGER OR NEWER PEOPLE IN THE SCENE THE NEW BANDS DOING IT IS A SICK THING THAT THEY HAVE A YOUNG BAND THAT THEY CAN RELATE TO WITH THEIR BELIEFS. WOULD JUST BE COOL IF SOMEONE COULD FIND A BIT OF A NEW OR INTERESTING WAY TO VIEW IT OR PRESENT IT THROUGH ARTWORK & STUFF THAT HASN'T BEEN DONE LOADS BEFORE.

PERSONALLY I THINK THAT THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR BANDS TO DO THE XVX THING, AS IT WILL INEVITABLY INTRODUCE YOUNGER CROWDS TO VEGANISM AND STRAIGHTEDGE (LISTEN TO XDELIVERANCEX AND XUNTOLD SUFFERINGX). STRAIGHTEDGE WAS OBVIOUSLY BORN FROM HARDCORE, BUT WHY DO YOU THINK THERE ARE SO MANY MORE OUTWARDLY VEGAN BANDS IN HARDCORE THAN ANY OTHER GENRE?

I THINK THESE DAYS OTHER MORE MAINSTREAM GENRES PROBABLY ARE POPULATED WITH VEGGIE/VEGAN PEOPLE BUT THEY CAN'T REALLY GO IN ON IT, BECAUSE THEIR NORMIE MAINSTREAM AUDIENCE LOVE KEBABS, SO THEY'LL END UP PROBABLY PISSING OFF A LOT OF PEOPLE. LIKE THAT LAST ARTSY BMTH EP HAS SOME LIKE INAUDIBLE TALKING ABOUT VEGANISM IN A TRACK BUT IF THEY JUST STARTED TALKING ABOUT IT IN HALF THEIR SONGS WITH ALL THE IMAGERY ETC. THEY WOULD PUT SOOOOOO MANY PEOPLE OFF THEM. I THINK YOU SEE A BUNCH OF NON-HEAVY ARTISTS IN HIP-HOP ETC. TWEET ABOUT STUFF A LOT, BUT AGAIN TO GO FULLY IN ON IT IN THEIR MUSIC WOULD PROBABLY AFFECT THEIR 'ART' & IT'S PERCEPTION. MINUS THE FACT HARDCORE IS BASED OFF BEING POLITICAL/CONSCIOUS FROM IT'S INCEPTION BEING THE MAIN REASON, IN MODERN TERMS, I BELIEVE A REASON FOR ITS MASSIVE PREVALENCE BAND-WISE IN HARDCORE IS NOW SO MANY PEOPLE ARE VEGAN IN & AROUND HARDCORE. IT'S A THING A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE IN COMMON & YOU CAN DEFINITELY SELL A FUCK LOAD EXTRA SHIRTS IF YOU HAVE VEGAN ON IT (THE MERCH GAME HAS DEFF HELPED PUSH IT), COS YOU'RE BASICALLY SELLING YOUR BELIEFS THAT YOU KNOW ALL THESE PEOPLE ALREADY BUY INTO, SO IT'S KIND OF LIKE AN ECHO-CHAMBER OF THE SAME IDEA BETWEEN ALL THESE PEOPLE WHO ALREADY HAVE THE SAME IDEA, IN TURN LURING IN NEW PEOPLE WHO AREN'T VEGAN BECAUSE OF THEIR CONNECTIONS IN THE SCENE, SO THEN THEY CAN GET INTO BECAUSE THERE'S A BAND THEY LIKE SAYING THINGS, SO THEN IT WILL BE ALL OVER INSTAGRAM STORIES & PEOPLE'S CLOTHES AT A SHOW, SO THEN IT'S BASICALLY EVERYWHERE IN HC. ALSO HARDCORE IS MOST PEOPLE'S INTRODUCTION TO SUCH ISSUES (IT WAS FOR ME) SO A SCENE BASED ON YOUNG PEOPLE (MOSTLY) DOING SHIT, EVERYONE IS GONNA GO HARD ON THESE NEW CONCEPTS THEY HAVE FOUND THEY ALIGN TO.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME MAN, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY, OR ANY SHOUTOUTS?

THANKS FOR ASKING ME TO DO THIS, THESE MIGHT BE THE BEST QUESTIONS WE'VE HAD ABOUT THE BAND. NEW FIFA IS OUT IN A FEW WEEKS, IF ANYONE WANTS A LESSON OR TWO IN PLAYING A FLEXIBLE 4-3-3 / 4-2-3-1 ADD ME ON PLAYSTATION (VIDAPLUMBER), LETS GO, I AM WILLING TO PUT REAL WORLD MONEY DOWN. CHECK OUT PC4PC PODCAST...

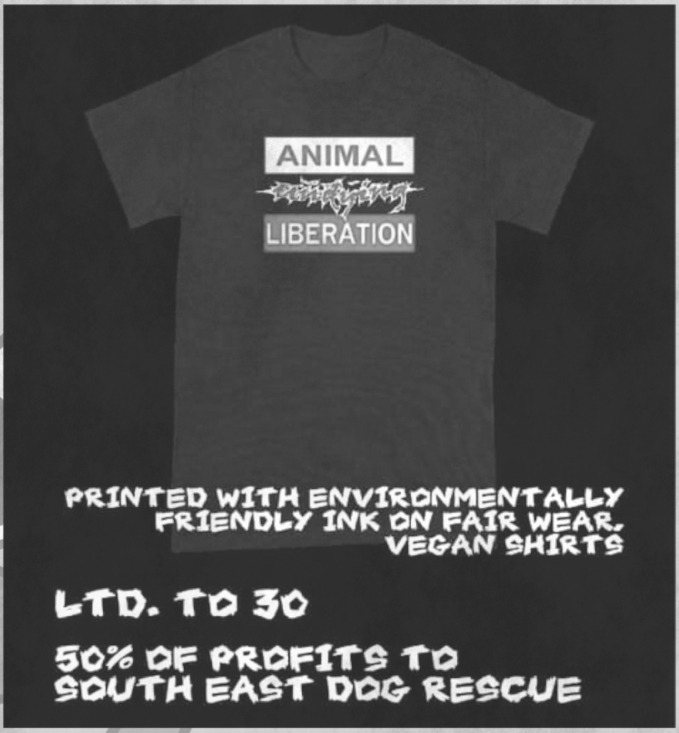
GAZA
ORGREAVE
AGAINST SEXISM
Randall
Marshall
9'19

HEY OSCAR, HOW YOU DOING MAN?

HEY MAN, I'M ALRIGHT, CHEERS FOR INVITING ME TO DO THIS INTERVIEW!

WHO'S INVOLVED IN 7 STITCHES? HOW DID YOU START AND WHAT WAS THE MAIN GOAL?

7 STITCHES STARTED EARLIER THIS YEAR WHEN I GOT CHATTING TO MY MATE JACK [THORNE, FROM REVOKED AND XUNTOLD SUFFERINGX] ABOUT DOING A SHORT RUN OF UNDYING BOOTLEGS. I'D BEEN SEARCHING FOR UNDYING MERCH FOR YEARS WITHOUT ANY LUCK AND JUST WANTED TO PRINT ONE FOR MYSELF. BUT I DIDN'T WANNA JUST SLAP A TACKY PLASTICKY PRINT ON A CHEAP T-SHIRT, I WANTED TO DO IT PROPERLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT THEN WE FIGURED WE COULD TURN THAT APPROACH TOWARDS PRODUCING MERCH INTO A PROPER THING AND JUST USE A SMALL RUN OF UNDYING BOOTS (WITH 50% GOING TO A DOG KENNEL) AS A START-UP - AND A TEST RUN TO SEE IF WE COULD ACTUALLY PULL OFF A SIMPLE SHIRT RELEASE HAHA. THE SHIRTS SOLD OUT PRETTY MUCH INSTANTLY, AND FROM THERE WE'VE JUST STARTED REACHING OUT TO BANDS WE DIG ACROSS THE WORLD TO DO EXCLUSIVE, LIMITED RUN DROPS OF MERCH. AT THE MOMENT THAT'S THE MAIN GOAL REALLY, JUST TO PUT OUT COOL SHIT FROM BANDS WE LOVE, AND OFFER STUFF TO FANS THAT THEY CAN'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE. WE PACK EVERYTHING IN RECYCLABLE POSTAGE MATERIALS, USE WATER-BASED INKS, AND SOURCE CLOTHING THAT'S VEGAN AND EITHER CRUELTY-FREE, OR ACTIVELY ANTI-SWEATSHOP (SHOUTOUT NO SWEAT). IT'S DIFFICULT TO BE PERFECT, AND MAYBE THE REAL-WORLD IMPACT IS NEGLIGIBLE, BUT I FIGURE IT'S BETTER TO AT LEAST TRY AND DO THESE THINGS IN A CONSCIOUS WAY RATHER THAN GOING FOR THE CHEAP, EASY METHODS. THEN AS THINGS HAVE EXPANDED, OUR MATES FIN AND BOB HAVE GOT INVOLVED, AND THE FOUR OF US ALL JUST BRAINSTORM TOGETHER WITH EACH RELEASE REALLY.


ANIMAL
LIBERATION
PRINTED WITH ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY INK ON FAIR WEAR, VEGAN SHIRTS
LTD. TO 30
50% OF PROFITS TO SOUTH EAST DOG RESCUE

7ST-003:
ONE STEP CLOSER
ONE STEP CLOSER
ONE-STEP CLOSER
7stitches.co.uk

YOU'VE ESTABLISHED YOURSELVES PRETTY QUICKLY AND STARTED WORKING WITH SOME COOL BANDS EARLY ON, MOST NOTABLY ONE STEP CLOSER. HOW DID THAT RELATIONSHIP COME ABOUT?

THAT CAME FROM OUR MATE BOB – HE'S HAD A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SOME OF THOSE GUYS FOR A LONG TIME NOW, AND I THINK I ASKED HIM ONE TIME IF HE'D ASK THEM IF THEY'D BE INTERESTED IN DOING A MERCH DROP IN EUROPE WITH US, AND IT ALL CAME FROM THAT REALLY HAHA. THEY'VE BEEN SUPER FRIENDLY, CALM DUDES TO WORK WITH, I THINK WE'VE PUT TOGETHER SOMETHING PRETTY COOL AND I'M STOKED TO DO MORE STUFF WITH THEM IN THE FUTURE.

HAS THE ONE STEP CLOSER DROP GONE WELL?

YEAH, IT'S BEEN GOING WELL! THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN GREAT AND EVERYONE SEEMS STOKED ON THE DESIGNS (MUCH TO MY RELIEF), ESPECIALLY THE HATS. NOW WE JUST GOTTA HAND PACK ALL THE ORDERS...

BLACK LIVES MATTER
UKHC FOR CHANGE
Attestor
DOME PIECE
Null.
vent
WE STAND WITH YOU.

> ***"WE PACK EVERYTHING IN RECYCLABLE POSTAGE MATERIALS, USE WATER-BASED INKS, AND SOURCE CLOTHING THAT'S VEGAN AND EITHER CRUELTY-FREE, OR ACTIVELY ANTI-SWEATSHOP (SHOUTOUT NO SWEAT)."***

YOU'RE ALSO BEHIND THE UKHC FOR CHANGE COMP, WITH PROCEEDS GOING TO BLACK LIVES MATTER RELATED CHARITIES. WHAT GAVE YOU THE IDEA TO DO THAT? WHAT BANDS WERE INVOLVED?

SO THE IDEA BEHIND IT KIND OF HAS A BIT OF A BACK STORY SO BEAR WITH ME HAHA. WELL, THE IDEA FOR IT WAS KINDA OF A MIX OF PERSONAL AND POLITICAL ACTUALLY. AFTER GEORGE FLOYD WAS MURDERED, SUDDENLY I FOUND MYSELF READING POLITICAL MATERIAL AND LITERATURE AS PART OF THIS BIG DRIVE FROM THE BLM MOVEMENT FOR EDUCATION AROUND RACIAL ISSUES. AND LIKE EVEN AS A MIXED-RACE DUDE THAT HAS EXPERIENCED RACISM BEFORE, IT KINDA DAWNED ON ME HOW FOR THE MOST PART, MY KNOWLEDGE OF RACISM WAS THROUGH THE EXPERIENCES OF OTHERS, OR THROUGH READING IT IN A BOOK. ASIDE FROM BEING BULLIED AS A KID OR THE ODD COMMENT I GET SOMETIMES AT WORK, I JUST DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY WHITE-PASSING COMPLEXION. OBVIOUSLY, THE SYSTEMIC RACISM INGRAINED IN WESTERN SOCIETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BEEN DISGUSTINGLY UNCONTESTED FOR DECADES, AND EDUCATION ABOUT IT HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT GRADUAL. SO FOR THOSE OF US THAT ARE WHITE AND WHITE-PASSING, IT'S A CONSTANT, CONTINUAL PROCESS OF LEARNING AND SELF-IMPROVEMENT. I THOUGHT I WAS DECENTLY EDUCATED ABOUT RACE ISSUES, BUT REALLY ALL I UNDERSTOOD WAS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. AND SO I WAS JUST BECOMING THE MOST POLITICISED I'D BEEN SINCE I WAS A TEENAGER, LIKE SUDDENLY I FELT SO ANGRY AND IMPASSIONED AGAIN AFTER YEARS OF JUST TOTAL APATHY AND NIHILISM TOWARDS POLITICS. AT THE SAME TIME, A LOT OF MY MATES OVER IN THE US WERE PROTESTING DAILY. THEY'D BE SENDING ME THESE CRAZY VIDEO CLIPS OF THE PROTESTS AND STUFF, AND THEN THEY'RE TELLING ME EACH NIGHT HOW THEY'RE GETTING SHOT AT AND GASSED, OR THEIR FRIEND IS HAVING TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL TO POTENTIALLY HAVE SURGERY OR WHATEVER, AND I JUST FELT HELPLESS. LIKE I JUST WANTED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, I WAS SO FUCKING PISSED OFF, BECAUSE MY FRIENDS WERE OUT THERE GETTING HURT BY MILITARISED, FRATERNIZED, STATE-SANCTIONED BULLIES.

ME AND JACK AGREED THAT IT FELT WRONG TO BE FOCUSING ON RELEASING MORE BAND MERCH VIA 7STITCHES WHEN THERE WERE PROTESTORS AND ACTIVISM GROUPS THAT NEEDED OUR TIME AND ENERGY A LOT MORE. WE WANTED TO AT LEAST DO A CHARITY SHIRT IF WE WERE RELEASING ANY MERCH, AND WERE TORN BETWEEN DOING A COLLABORATIVE SHIRT WITH LOADS OF BANDS, OR JUST DOING A SHIRT WITH ONE BIGGER BAND. I ENDED UP ASKING BEN SULLIVAN [FROM GROVE STREET FAMILIES] IF GSF WANTED TO DO A SHIRT, BUT WE SOON PIVOTED TO THE IDEA OF THE COLLABORATIVE ONE, AND BETWEEN US WE JUST STARTED HITTING UP ANY AND ALL BANDS IN THE SCENE WHO WERE ESTABLISHED AND HAD A PLATFORM. I WAS MESSAGING PUNK BANDS AND METALCORE BANDS AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN, AS WELL AS POSTING ONLINE THAT ANY BAND WITHIN THE SCENE THAT WANTED TO GET INVOLVED WAS WELCOME TO. LIKE, I FIGURED IF WE WERE GONNA DO A COLLABORATIVE UKHC SHIRT, I WANTED TO MAKE IT BIG AND I WANTED TO DO IT PROPERLY. TO REACH AS MANY DIFFERENT AUDIENCES AS POSSIBLE. A GROUP CHAT WAS MADE WITH REPS FROM EVERY BAND, AND SOON IT REALLY GAINED A LIFE OF ITS OWN. BECAUSE WE WERE SO OPEN TO ANY INVOLVEMENT, THE MIX OF BANDS TURNED OUT REALLY ECLECTIC. I FLOATED THE IDEA OF A COMPILATION AS WELL AS JUST A SHIRT, AND SO SOON YOU HAD BEATDOWN BANDS ON THE SAME TRACKLISTING AS BANDS COVERING CONFLICT HAHAH. THERE WERE OVER 30 BANDS INVOLVED OVERALL BETWEEN BOTH THE SHIRT AND THE COMP I THINK, SO TOO MANY TO NAME THEM ALL - BUT WE HAD BIGGER OLDER BANDS LIKE GROVE STREET FAMILIES, REALM OF TORMENT OR ITHACA ALONGSIDE NEW UP AND COMERS LIKE VENT, ALONGSIDE KICK ASS PUNK BANDS LIKE THE ANNIHILATED OR NEVER. IT WAS A REALLY SICK MIX AND I WAS STOKED TO SEE EVERYONE COME TOGETHER FOR IT. MUCH LOVE TO YOU ALEC FOR SORTING ALL THE DESIGN WORK AND TO JOSH NFR FOR PRODUCING ALL THE TAPES.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME ABOUT UKHC FOR CHANGE IS THAT IT ISN'T JUST 'MY' THING. IT'S A SHARED THING, IT'S A COMMUNAL EFFORT – YEAH OF COURSE YOU'RE GONNA NEED PEOPLE SORTING OUT LOGISTICS AND PEOPLE TO PROVIDE RESOURCES BEHIND THE SCENES, BUT THE ENTIRE REASON IT ENDED UP BEING ITS OWN PAGE AND IDENTITY WAS BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO NECESSARILY HAVE IT BE MY BRAND OR ANYTHING. I DON'T THINK EFFECTIVE ACTIVISM OR CHARITY SHOULD NECESSARILY HAVE SOMEONE'S FACE ON THE FRONT OF IT, I THINK THAT TAKES AWAY FROM WHAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY WORKING TOWARDS, IT LOSES SIGHT OF THE MESSAGE. THIS IS A SHARED IDENTITY WITH EVERY BAND INVOLVED AS MUCH AS IT INVOLVES MYSELF, AND THE IMPORTANT THING IS WHAT EVERYONE IS COMING TOGETHER AROUND. SO AVOIDING ANY TIES TO A BRAND LIKE 7 STITCHES OR WHATEVER KEEPS FOCUS ON WHAT'S TRULY IMPORTANT. I HAVEN'T DECIDED IF UKHC 4 CHANGE NEEDS SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES OR NOT YET OR IF WE'RE GONNA KEEP IT ALL ON THE BANDCAMP, BUT I GUESS WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT OVER TIME.

HOW MUCH DID YOU MANAGE TO RAISE, AND WHERE DID THE FUNDS ACTUALLY GO?

WE MANAGED TO RAISE £1,150, WHICH WAS SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN INITIATIVES IN THE UK AND THE US - £575 WENT DIRECTLY TO UK BLM, AND THE OTHER £575 WENT TO ACT BLUE'S BAIL FUND FUNDRAISER, WHICH THEN SPLIT OUR DONATION BETWEEN OVER 70 COMMUNITY BAIL FUNDS ACROSS THE US.

DID YOU THINK IT WOULD BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS IT WAS? DO YOU HAVE PLANS FOR MORE FUNDRAISING RELEASES?

I WASN'T SURE HONESTLY, I JUST WANTED IT TO BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS POSSIBLE. FOR PEOPLE TO REALLY TAKE TO IT AND COME TOGETHER AND PUSH IT AND WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WAS COOL ENOUGH AS IT IS. I JUST HOPE THAT ENERGY HAS RUBBED OFF AND WE CAN CONTINUE IT WITH FUTURE PROJECTS. PLUS, I HOPE THAT THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE HAS INGRAINED IN ALL OF US THAT BLM WON'T REMAIN A TREND, AND THAT WE CAN TRY OUR BEST NOT TO STAND ON A SILENT PLATFORM.

AND YEAH FOR SURE, THE UKHC 4 CHANGE PLATFORM IS OPEN TO ANY WORTHY FUNDRAISERS/CAUSES. RIGHT NOW AS I WRITE THIS, WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER A RAFFLE FOR FUZZBRAIN STUDIOS, WHICH BURNT DOWN DUE TO A ROGUE FIRE IN A NEIGHBOURING BUILDING. FUZZBRAIN WAS A SUPER IMPORTANT SPACE FOR A LOT OF MY FRIENDS AND CENTRAL TO THE DIY PUNK SCENE IN LONDON, SO EVEN RAISING JUST A LITTLE BIT OF MONEY TO HELP BEN REBUILD IS MORE THAN WORTH IT IMO.

THE FUZZBRAIN FUNDRAISER RAFFLE HAS NOW ENDED, BUT YOU CAN STILL DONATE TO HELP REBUILD THE STUDIO HERE.

AFTER FUZZBRAIN, I'LL DEFINITELY BE LOOKING TO CONTINUE USING THE PLATFORM FOR IMPORTANT CAUSES. I DON'T WANNA JUST PUMP OUT A RECYCLED T-SHIRT TEMPLATE EVERY WEEK AND BECOME STAGNANT, I WANT TO USE THE PLATFORM AS SOMETHING RESPONSIVE WHERE WE CAN SUDDENLY GRAB ATTENTION FROM ALL ACROSS THE SCENE AND BE LIKE "YO, LOOK, THERE'S SOME SHIT GOING ON RIGHT NOW THAT WE CAN HELP WITH AND WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO." TO PUT ASIDE ALL THE PETTY BULLSHIT OR MUSICAL DIFFERENCES AND RALLY AROUND A COMMON GOAL. OR IF OTHER PEOPLE COME TO US WITH IMPORTANT STUFF THAT NEEDS OUR FOCUS TOO, WE CAN USE OUR COLLECTIVE PLATFORMS TO AMPLIFY THAT AND BRING IT TO A WIDER AUDIENCE TO TRY AND MAKE AN IMPACT. TO ME HARDCORE WAS ALWAYS A NETWORK FOR LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE, RATHER THAN THIS ABSOLUTE MEDIUM FOR CHANGE. LIKE THE MUSIC ISN'T MAKING THE DIFFERENCE PER SE, THE PEOPLE ARE; THE MUSIC IS JUST WHAT BINDS US TOGETHER. YET EVEN IN A SCENE AS POLITICIZED AS PUNK AND HARDCORE, YOU'D BE AMAZED HOW EASY IT IS FOR PEOPLE TO TURN A BLIND EYE. SO HOPEFULLY DRAWING THAT ATTENTION WILL ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GIVE MORE OF A SHIT ABOUT THINGS IN THE WORLD.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR 7 STITCHES? ANY BIG PLANS ON THE HORIZON?

YEAH, WE GOT SOME REALLY COOL STUFF IN THE WORKS! NOTHING I CAN REVEAL YET, BUT LET'S JUST SAY I'M LOOKING INTO ECO-FRIENDLY SWEATPANTS…

DO YOU TAKE SUBMISSIONS FROM BANDS TO WORK TOGETHER? HOW CAN THEY GET IN TOUCH?

I'M ALWAYS INTERESTED IN TALKING TO BANDS, AND I'M ALWAYS CHATTING TO BANDS ANYWAY ABOUT POTENTIALLY WORKING TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE HAHA. OBVIOUSLY, WE CAN'T JUST DO RUNS OF MERCH FOR EVERY BAND THAT HITS US UP, BUT IF WE DIG YOUR BAND THEN WHO KNOWS!

ANYONE THAT WANTS TO GET IN TOUCH ABOUT ANYTHING, JUST SHOOT ME AN EMAIL AT 7STITCHESMERCH@GMAIL.COM

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME OSCAR! ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?

CHEERS DUDE! FUCK IT YOU'VE OFFERED ME A BLANK CANVAS, SO SHOUTOUT NEGATIVE MEASURES, REVOKED, PLEAD, PLASTICS, NEVER (RIP), STONE HAND, DOMEPIECE, IMPOSTER, VENT, SEVERANCE, KOLD WAR, MANTLET, HUMAN LEATHER, IRADEI, STATE FUNERAL, SHOOTING DAGGERS, ILL-INFORMED, XUNTOLD SUFFERINGX, SENTIENCE, HARNESS RECORDS, NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS, FINAL WORD AND ALL THE SEHC HOMIES. SORRY THAT WAS PROBABLY TOO MUCH HAHAHA.
BUT YEAH IN PARTICULAR SHOUTOUT THE SOUTH (EAST) COAST, COS IT'S GOT A COOL GENERATION OF KIDS EMERGING, AND I'M STOKED TO BE PART OF SUCH A SICK SCENE WHERE EVERYONE IS SO POSITIVE AND PASSIONATE AND EXCITED TO JUST PUT SHIT OUT INTO THE WORLD. WE'RE ALL PRETTY YOUNG (LATE TEENS/EARLY 20S) SO WE PROBABLY GOTTA EARN OUR STRIPES A BIT MORE YET, BUT THERE'S A LOT COMING SO WATCH THIS SPACE.

UPRAISED

MEET UPRAISED, A NEW HEAVY HARDCORE BAND FROM WOLVERHAMPTON. EXPECT BIG THINGS FROM THIS UNIT, WHICH FEATURES MEMBERS OF SPLINTERED AND SUPPRESS.

WHAT'S UP! HOW ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
P: ALL GOOD MATE THANKS, ALL OF US JUST LOSING THE PLOT A BIT DURING LOCKDOWN I THINK.

WHO PLAYS WHAT IN THE BAND, AND HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELVES MUSICALLY? WHAT INFLUENCES ARE YOU PULLING FROM?
P: I'M DAN AND I PLAY GUITAR, BUT PEOPLE USUALLY CALL ME P. OUR VOCALIST AND BASSIST ARE BOTH ALSO CALLED DAN AND LIAM IS ON DRUMS. YES WE HAVE THREE DANS, AND YES IT'S VERY CONFUSING. THANKFULLY DAN ON BASS ALSO GOES BY DON HAHA.
I GUESS WE'RE STRAIGHT UP HARDCORE WITH A STRONG US INFLUENCE. WE'RE INFLUENCED BY BANDS LIKE TUI, INCENDIARY, SUBURBAN SCUM, HANGMAN AND JUST BIG RIFFS IN GENERAL. I'M ALL ABOUT THE RIFFS AND THE GROOVE. NOT TO THROW SHADE AT ANYONE IN PARTICULAR BUT I THINK TOO MANY BANDS NOW HAVE LOST THE SENSE OF CONTRAST IN THEIR MUSIC. PARTICULARLY WITH THE NEW STUFF WE'RE WRITING HAS SOME ODD TIME SIGNATURES AND WEIRD RHYTHMS AND STUFF. MIXING IT UP IS SO IMPORTANT.

YOU'RE A PRETTY NEW BAND, AND A COUPLE OF YOU GUYS HAVE NEVER BEEN IN BANDS BEFORE, RIGHT? HOW HAS IT BEEN WRITING MATERIAL IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE WITH ALL THE RESTRICTIONS ETC.?
DAN W: YEAH MYSELF AND P HAVE NEVER ACTUALLY PLAYED A SHOW OR ANYTHING BEFORE HAHA. WE'VE BEEN WRITING MUSIC TOGETHER FOR YEARS BUT DUE TO SOME HEALTH ISSUES I WAS HAVING THROUGHOUT THOSE YEARS, PLAYING LIVE IN A BAND SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE. THANKFULLY I'M IN A MUCH BETTER PLACE THESE DAYS AND LOOKING TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME AND MAKE SOME AMAZING MEMORIES!

IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT AT TIMES TO GET US ALL TOGETHER BUT WE'VE BEEN MAKING IT WORK. P TENDS TO SEND ME RIFFS OVER THAT HE HAS RECORDED WHICH I'LL THEN WRITE SOME LYRICS TOO. THEN WE FLESH THE SONGS OUT FURTHER AT PRACTISE WITH DON AND LIAM CONTRIBUTING THEIR IDEAS. THE CREATIVE CHEMISTRY AND JUST GENERAL VIBE WE HAVE TOGETHER IS SICK AND GETS ME SUPER HYPED FOR THE FUTURE.

DO YOU THINK IT'S HELPED HAVE THE TIME TO GEL TOGETHER AND GET TIGHT BEFORE YOU'RE ABLE TO PLAY SHOWS?
P: IN THAT RESPECT IT'S BEEN GREAT. WE'D MET DON OUR BASSIST ALREADY AS HE RECORDED OUR DEBUT EP AT BAY TEN STUDIOS (SHOUTOUT) BUT WE JUST CLICKED SUPER FAST WITH BOTH HIM AND LIAM. SOMETIMES WE'LL JUST GO TO OUR LOCKUP TO HANGOUT AND TALK SHIT TOGETHER. EVERYONE'S SUPER CHILL.

ARE YOU PUMPED AT THE IDEA OF PLAYING SHOWS? WHAT'S YOUR DREAM FIRST LINEUP TO JUMP ON?
DAN W: SUPER, SUPER PUMPED MAN. I IMAGINE ME AND P WILL BE MAD NERVOUS BEFORE OUR FIRST SHOW HAHA. THAT HAS BEEN THE WORST PART ABOUT COVID FOR ME. NOT KNOWING WHEN WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO PLAY HAS BEEN MADDENING BUT OF COURSE IT'S FOR THE BEST.

WE'VE BEEN VERY LUCKY AND MADE FRIENDS WITH SOME GREAT GUYS IN OTHER UP AND COMING BANDS ACROSS THE UK. SO A LINE-UP FILLED WITH OUR MATES WOULD BE AMAZING. SHOUT OUTS TO SPLINTERED, SUPPRESS, LOOSE ENDS WMBD, REVOKED AND MANTLET CVHC.

YOU RELEASED "ROOM 28" LAST YEAR, BUT I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR SOUND QUITE A BIT SINCE THEN. WHAT WAS THE DRIVING POINT FOR THAT?
P: YEAH IT WAS LITERALLY JUST ME AND DAN (AND AN EX FRIEND OF OURS WHO PLAYED DRUMS) WHEN WE WROTE ROOM 28. WE NAMED THE EP AFTER OUR PRACTICE ROOM AT ROBANNAS STUDIO IN BIRMINGHAM. WE'D JUST GET TOGETHER AND WRITE A NEW SONG LIKE EVERY 2 WEEKS. DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A SUPER STRONG IDEA WHAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO SOUND LIKE BUT JUST WENT WITH THE FLOW. OVERALL WE'RE HAPPY WITH HOW IT TURNED OUT BUT THE NEW STUFF IS DEFINITELY GONNA BE A STEP UP. GETTING AMAZING MUSICIANS WHO'VE BEEN AROUND THE BLOCK LIKE LIAM AND DON HAS DEFINITELY HELPED US REFINE WHAT WE'RE GOING FOR. I WROTE THE MAIN RIFF FOR A NEW SONG WE'VE NOW FINISHED CALLED PURGATORY AND IT'S STRAIGHT UP THE HARDEST THING I'VE EVER WRITTEN. IT'S NOT OFTEN I AM HAPPY STRAIGHT AWAY WITH SOMETHING I WRITE, BUT IN MY HEAD I WAS LIKE "I WANT EVERYTHING TO SOUND AS HEAVY AND AGGRESSIVE AS THIS".

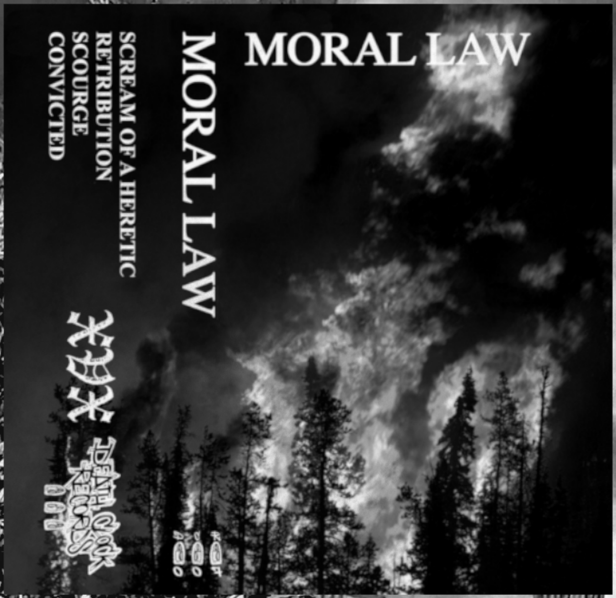
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE? WILL YOU BE RELEASING ANYTHING ELSE THIS YEAR?
P: LITERALLY THE DAY VENUES OPEN WE WANT TO BE ON A SHOW AND PLAY AS MUCH AS WE CAN.
WE'RE BOOKED IN TO RECORD A 3 TRACK WITH THE AWESOME SAM BLOOR IN DECEMBER, SO HOPEFULLY EARLY 2021 IT WILL BE OUT. IT'S GONNA BE CALLED "WOLVERHAMPTON HARDCORE" AND ITS GONNA BLOW YOUR FUCKING HEADS OFF, I CAN'T WAIT.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME GUYS, ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?
P: MASSIVE THANKS TO YOU FOR HAVING US AND BIG UP THE WHOLE MENTALLY VEXED TEAM AND OTHER HEADS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US. AND FOR EVERYONE READING, GOOD SHIT IS COMING.
DAN W: YEAH THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY! STAY POSITIVE EVERYONE AND KEEP PRACTISING THEM MOSH MOVES.

PHOTOS BY CERYS TAYLOR

DEATH CLOCK RECORDS IS PROUD TO WELCOME SHACKLED AND MORAL LAW TO THE FAMILY

MORAL LAW - SELF-TITLED
FFO: XELEGYX, UNDYING, SAFE AND SOUND


MORAL LAW
MORAL LAW
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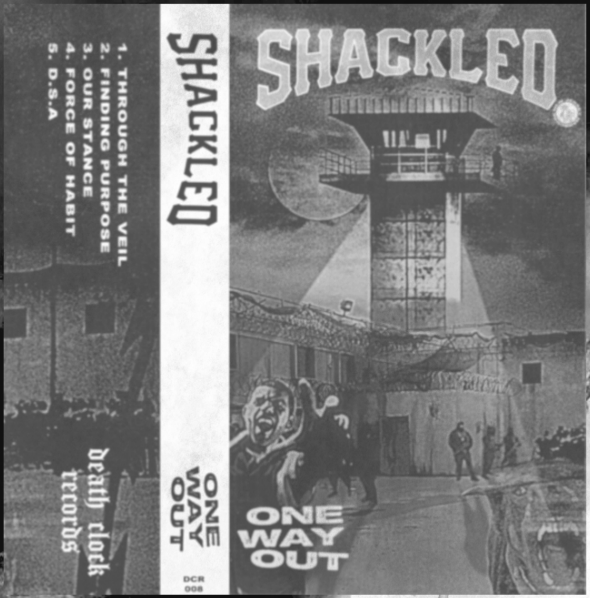
Death Clock Records

SHACKLED - ONE WAY OUT
FFO: OUT FOR JUSTICE, SECTOR, MAGNITUDE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ONE WAY OUT

1. Through the Veil
2. Finding Purpose
3. Our Stance
4. Force of Habit
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Shackled
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REVOKED

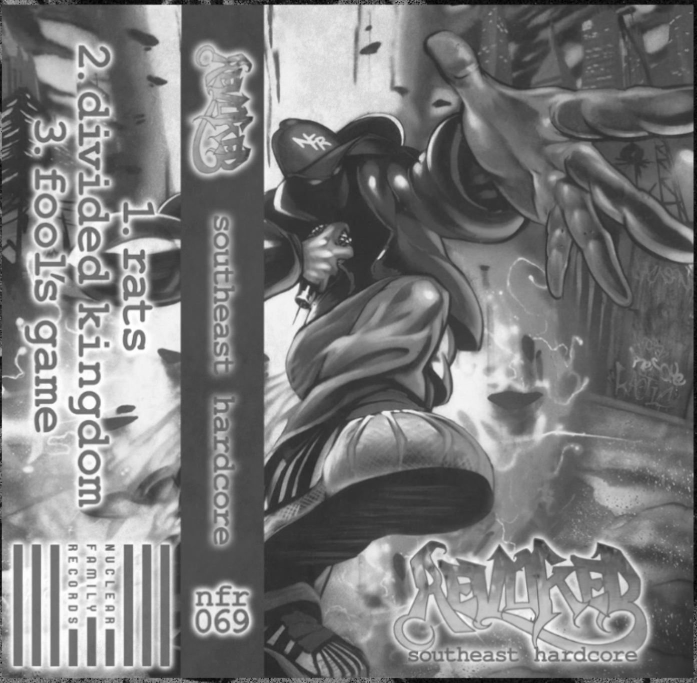
YO KYLE, HOW YOU DOING MAN?
I'M DOING GOOD, THANK YOU MAN. THANKS FOR ASKING ME TO DO THIS!

THANKS FOR DOING THIS. CAN YOU TELL US HOW THE BAND FORMED AND WHO PLAYS WHAT?
REVOKED IS MYSELF ON VOCALS, MATT ON GUITAR/VOCALS, JACK ON GUITAR, LUKE ON BASS AND CONNOR ON DRUMS.
SO MY UNDERSTANDING OF IT IS: MATT AND JACK WENT TO A SHOW TOGETHER AND DECIDED TO START A BAND BETWEEN THEMSELVES. ASKED OUR FRIEND SCOTT, WHO THEN SUGGESTED CONNOR. MATT AND CONNOR MET AT A LOCAL SHOW, AS THE THREE OF US WENT TO WATCH DOMEPIECE. THEY JAMMED A FEW TIMES, TRIED SOMEONE ELSE ON VOCALS, THAT DIDN'T WORK, SO MATT ASKED ME AND I SAID YES BEFORE HEARING ANYTHING. KIND OF SNOWBALLED INTO THE MESS YOU SEE NOW. WE SAID ONCE WE STARTED WRITING A FULL LENGTH WE'D HAVE JACK COME INTO SECOND GUITAR, LUKE WAS ALWAYS AT OURS SHOWS AND WAS A FRIEND AND KNEW THE SONGS, SO IT WAS ONLY RIGHT TO BRING HIM IN (HOWEVER HESITANT I WAS AT THE START)

REVOKED
SOUTHEAST HARDCORE

HOW HAVE SHOWS GONE?
SHOWS HAVE GONE BETTER THAN I EVER COULD OF EXPECTED AND HOPED FOR, EVEN FROM THE FIRST ONE. WAS A BIT OF A DRAG HAVING TO CANCEL WHAT WE HAD LINED UP, BUT IF ANYTHING IT'S GIVEN US TIME TO FOCUS AND NAIL DOWN WHAT WE WANT!

YOU JUST RELEASED SOUTHEAST HARDCORE, HOW HAS THE RECEPTION BEEN FOR THAT?
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN IT'S BEEN REALLY POSITIVE. WEIRD SEEING ANY AMOUNT OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW SUPPORT SOMETHING A GROUP OF FRIENDS AND I HAVE DONE.



YOU'VE HAD A BIT OF A SOUND CHANGE ON THIS RELEASE, MOVING INTO MORE OF THE BULLDOZE/EGH CLASSIC BEATDOWN STYLE. IT FEELS LIKE YOU'VE FOUND YOURSELVES, AND IT'S REFRESHING TO SEE SOMEONE FROM THE UK DO THIS STYLE RIGHT. WHAT PROMPTED THE CHANGE?
IT KIND OF NATURALLY WENT THAT WAY, DUE TO WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN LISTENING TOO, OR BANDS WE ALL ENJOY COLLECTIVELY. PROBABLY JACK AND I, FORCING MATT TO LISTEN TO SOME BANDS HE MAY NOT OF ALWAYS OUTRIGHT CHOSEN ON HIS OWN HAS BEEN A FACTOR TO.

HOW AND WHERE DID YOU WRITE AND RECORD SEHC? WHAT'S THE GENERAL WRITING PROCESS LIKE?
WE WRITE AND PRACTICE AT NSP STUDIOS IN MAIDSTONE AND WE RECORD WITH JASON AT CENTURY AUDIO IN MINSTER. USUALLY IT'LL BE JACK OR MATT WRITING A 15-30 SECOND RIFF, UNTIL WE GET INTO A PRACTICE WHERE IT GETS FLESHED OUT, POKED AND PRODDED INTO A SOUND WE LIKE. WE USUALLY JUST RECORD IT AT THE END OF PRACTICE ON SOMEONE'S PHONE AND I'LL WRITE LYRICS AT PRACTICE OUT OF THE ROOM, OR AT HOME. FOOL'S GAME WASN'T ACTUALLY IN EXISTENCE UNTIL PROBABLY A MONTH(?) BEFORE WE RECORDED. WE HAD A THIRD SONG, BUT JACK AND I DECIDED WE REALLY WEREN'T FANS OF IT, IT WAS WEAK COMPARED TO THE OTHER TWO ON THE RECORD.

LIMP BIZKIT - WHY?
I WAS PRETTY INTO NU METAL AS A YOUNG CHILD, THROUGH FLICKING THROUGH THE MUSIC CHANNELS AS A KID, SO LIMP BIZKIT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A STAPLE IN MY LISTENING. LIMP BIZKIT KIND OF GOT REKINDLED FOR MY OVER THE PAST YEAR, BECAUSE MATT MENTIONED HE'D BEEN LISTENING, AND IT'S REALLY SPIRALLED OUT OF CONTROL NOW TO BE FAIR! ITS JUST STRAIGHTFORWARD MUSIC AND I SUPPOSE EASY LISTENING FOR ME REALLY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?
WE'RE CURRENTLY WRITING AN LP AND THE SPLIT WITH DOMEPIECE WILL STILL BE HAPPENING, LIFE AND SOME BAND CHANGES PUT IT ON PAUSE FOR NOW, BUT IT'LL HAPPEN! MAINLY JUST LP FOCUS FOR NOW, AND BEING READY FOR SHOWS TO KICK BACK UP AGAIN!

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM LINEUP, ANY BANDS ANY ERA, FOR THE FIRST SHOW BACK AFTER COVID-19?
IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER: NEVER ENDING GAME, BULLDOZE (94), NINEBAR, THREE KNEE DEEP.

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME MAN, ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?
THANK YOU TO ANYONE SUPPORTING WHAT WE'RE DOING. CHECK OUT DOMEPIECE, XUNTOLD SUFFERINGX, ILL INFORMED, XDELIVERANCEX, MANTLET, VENT, MORAL SLIP, GRAPHIC NATURE. THANK YOU TO NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS AND WEATHERGIRL RECORDS FOR SUPPORTING AND RELEASING OUR MUSIC.
EVERYONE'S GOT ENOUGH TIME AT THE MOMENT, TRY A GET SOME MATES TOGETHER AND START A BAND. THEY DO A WONDER FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH, FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.

THANKS FOR HAVING ME AGAIN, ALEC!

LISTEN TO SOUTHEAST HARDCORE HERE

SEE OUR REVIEW CORNER FOR A SHORT WRITE UP ON SOUTH EAST HARDCORE, AND ORDER A CASSETTE FROM THE INCREDIBLE NUCLEAR FAMILY RECORDS NOW!

NUCLEAR
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RECORDS

PHOTOS BY @XVISUA

COVENANT
COVENANT
CO

TRADITIONAL TATTOO STYLE WITH EXTRA AGGRO, @COVENANTCO_ IS DOING BITS RIGHT NOW! GET TO KNOW COVENANT HERE

HEY AMY, WHAT'S GOOD MAN?
HEY MAN, JUST LIVIN' MY BEST LIFE GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CREATING UNDER COVENANT? DID YOU STUDY ART AT ALL?
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO START SOMETHING LIKE THIS UP FOR A WHILE BUT IT'S ONLY BEEN IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS THAT I'VE ACTUALLY PURSUED ANYTHING. I STUDIED ART FOR 3 YEARS IN SCHOOL AND THEN GOT MY DIPLOMA IN IT IN COLLEGE, BUT I DECIDED TO STUDY NURSING AT UNI INSTEAD OF ART AND JUST DO IT AS MORE OF A SIDE PROJECT.

ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO THE NAME? ARE YOU A WITCH?
THERE'S TWO DEFINITIONS OF A COVENANT, ONE'S A LEGAL TERM AND ONE'S A RELIGIOUS TERM - IT BASICALLY MEANS AN AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT. I PICKED THE NAME CAUSE BOTH DEFINITIONS OF THE WORD FIT IN WITH THE KIND OF WORK THAT I MAKE AND STUFF, BUT ALSO CAUSE OF THE IRONY OF IT BEING A LEGAL TERM AND ME BEING BIG ON ACAB AND SHIT.

> ***"I'D ALWAYS DESCRIBE IT AS TRADITIONAL BUT OFFENSIVE BLACKWORK"***

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE? DO YOU HAVE ANY BIG INFLUENCES, OR MAYBE JUST ARTISTS YOU LOOK UP TO?
I'D ALWAYS DESCRIBE IT AS 'TRADITIONAL BUT OFFENSIVE' BLACKWORK. I TAKE HEAVY INFLUENCE FROM RELIGIOUS IMAGERY LIKE SACRED HEARTS AND JESUS PIECES, AND AS YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL, ACAB AND DEATH IS A REOCCURRING THEME IN MY WORK TOO. AS FAR AS ARTISTS GO, ONE OF MY FAVOURITES IS A TATTOO ARTIST FROM LONDON - EMILY MALICE - BECAUSE HER WORK IS JUST COOL AS FUCK.

TELL US ABOUT SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE MATERIALS TO WORK WITH?
I ONLY JUST RECENTLY STARTED USING PAINT PENS, AND THEY ARE BY FAR MY FAVOURITE THING TO WORK WITH. I DO A LOT OF GRAPHIC DESIGN TOO FOR MAKING MY PRINTS AND CLOTHES AND STUFF, BUT I WORK ON PRETTY MUCH ANY MEDIA I CAN MAKE WORK FOR ME NOW.

DONE ANY COOL COLLABS OR ANYTHING? IF NOT, ARE YOU DOWN FOR THAT KIND OF THING?
I'VE DONE A FAIR BIT OF DESIGN WORK FOR LOCAL COMPANIES AND INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES AND STUFF LIKE THAT. I'VE GOT A LOT OF VERY EXCITING STUFF IN THE WORKS WITH MY MATE BELL (@PYXIEBELL) THAT'LL BE COMING IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TOO. I'M ALWAYS DOWN FOR A COLLAB!

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING TO RECENTLY? ANY RECOMMENDATIONS?
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO A LOT OF XIBALBA AND MINDFORCE RECENTLY, AND YOU CAN NEVER GO WRONG WITH BANE. REALLY MISSING SHOWS RIGHT NOW!

HOW CAN PEOPLE GET IN TOUCH, AND WHERE CAN THEY BUY YOUR STUFF?
WWW.COVENANTCO.BIGCARTEL.COM OR DROP ME A MESSAGE OVER ON MY INSTAGRAM @COVENANTCO_

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME! ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY?
JUST THANKS FOR DOING THIS, THE SUPPORT MEANS THE WORLD!

CHECK OUT COVENANT'S STORE HERE!

PHOTOS BY @COVENANTCO_

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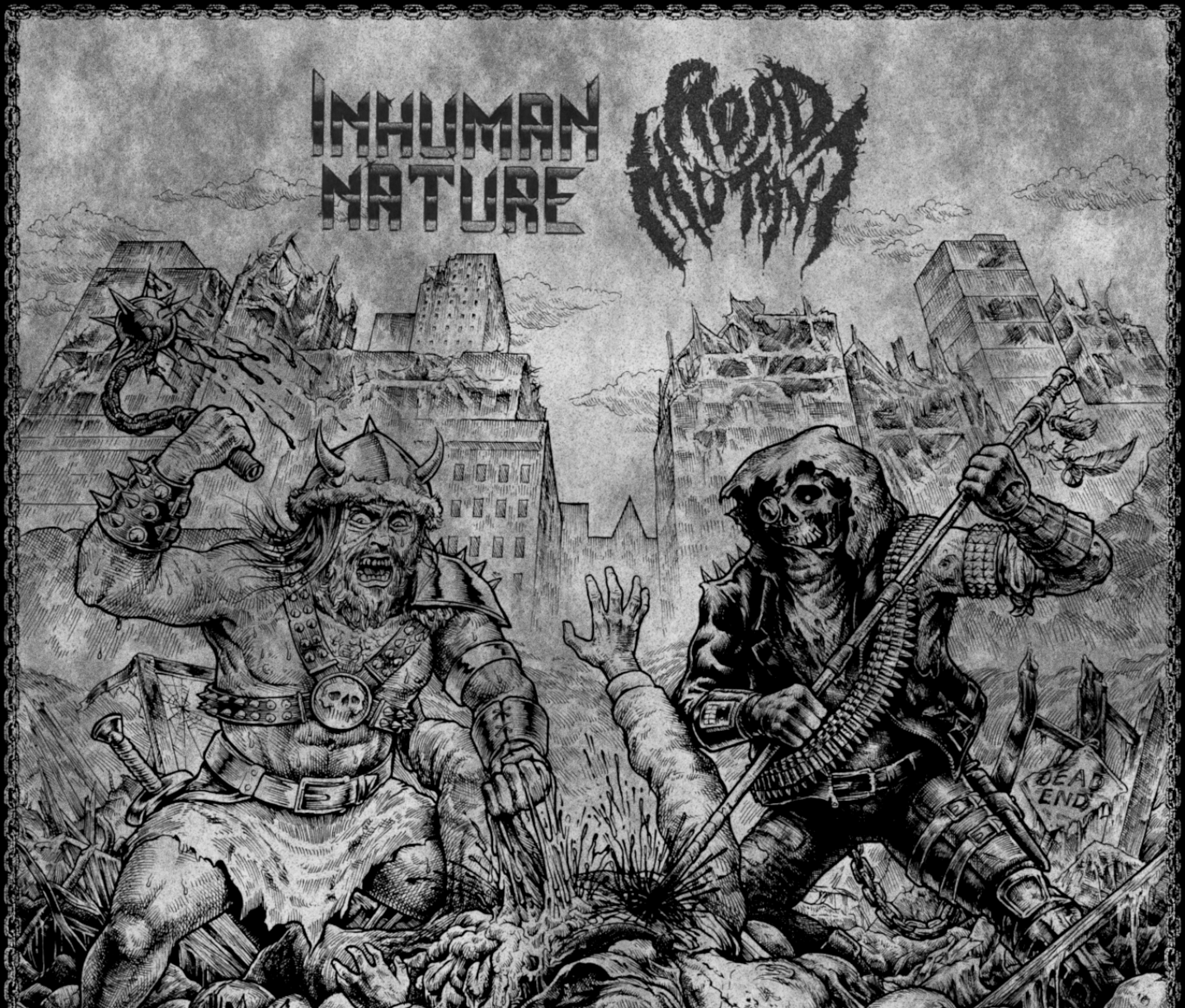
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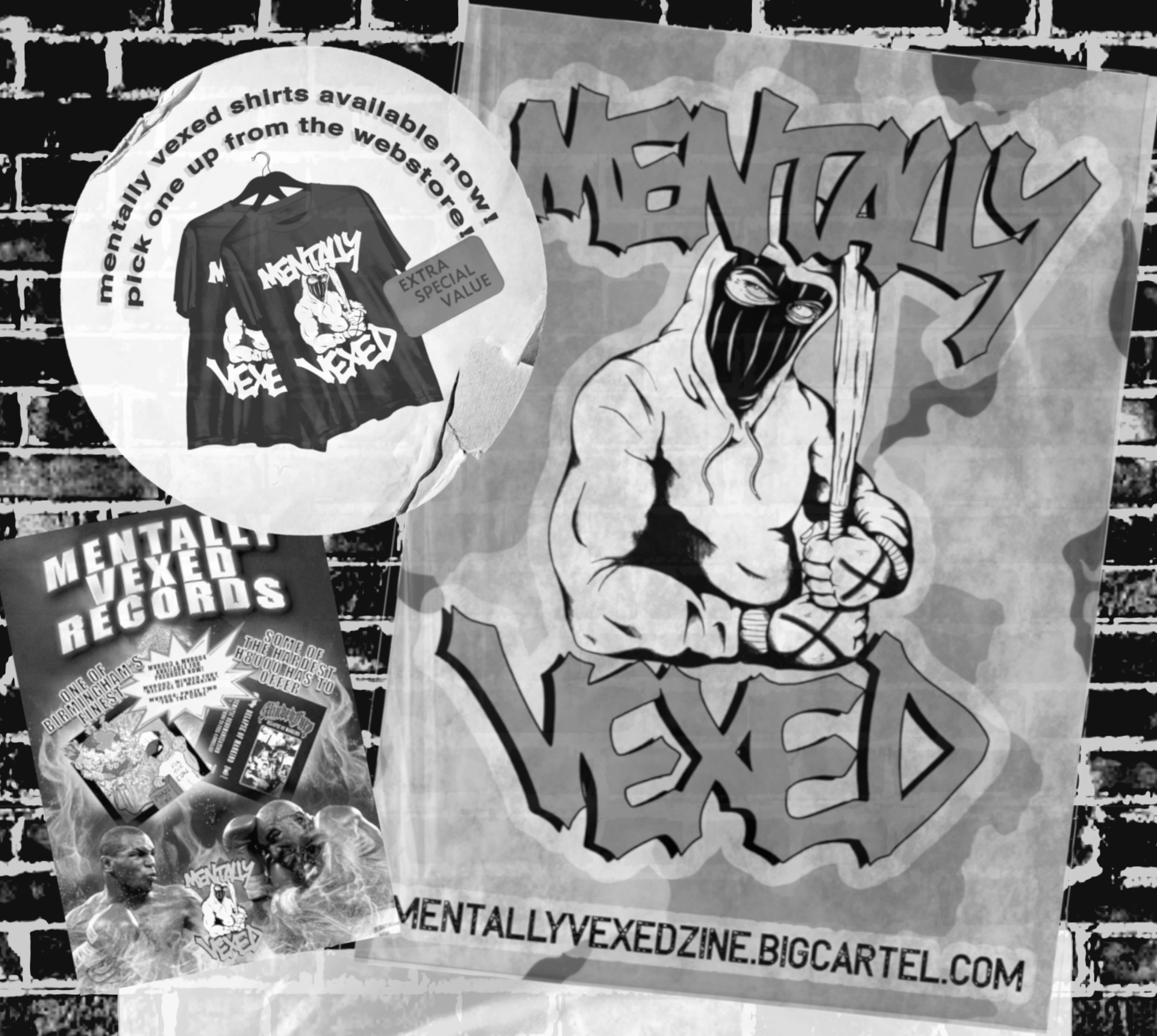
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